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SEGA

SONIC



THE HEDGEHOG



DIRECT EDITION



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RETURN TO
Angel Island

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG



ACTS OF AGGRESSION BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF ACORN AND THE EGGMAN EMPIRE HAVE PLUNGED THE ENTIRE PLANET OF MOBIUS INTO TURMOIL.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG LEADS THE FIGHT AGAINST THE EVIL DOCTOR ROBOTNIK WITH MANY ALLIES BY HIS SIDE. ONE SUCH ALLY, KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA, WAS ONCE GUARDIAN OF THE MASTER EMERALD UNTIL HE AND HIS TEAM OF CHAOTIX LEFT THEIR HOME ON ANGEL ISLAND TO LEND AID TO THE ACORN MONARCHY. WHILE THEY WERE AWAY, ROBOTNIK TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THEIR ABSENCE, SENDING HIS ROBOTIC HORDES TO SUCCESSFULLY CONQUER ANGEL ISLAND!

EVER SINCE THAT DAY, KNUCKLES--WHO LOST HIS CHAOS-BASED POWERS AFTER RETURNING FROM THE ECHIDNA AFTERLIFE--HAS REMAINED IN THE KINGDOM OF ACORN, NOT KNOWING THE FATE OF HIS FAMILY AND THOSE LEFT BEHIND.

**THE RETURN TO ANGEL ISLAND
BEGINS HERE!**

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SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG



"RETURN TO ANGEL ISLAND"

PART 1- "THE MESSAGE"

CASTLE ACORN-
Morning

KARL BOLLERS - STORY JON GRAY - PENCILS
MICHAEL FIGGINS - LETTERS & INKS
JASON JENSEN - COLORS MIKE PELLERITO - EDITOR
VICTOR GORELICK - MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER - EDITOR IN CHIEF

SPECIAL THANKS TO
ROBERT LEFFLER AND
TAKUMA HATORI AT
SEGA LICENSING

PRINCESS
SALLY, HOW
COULD YOU BE
SO RECKLESS AS
TO DISOBEY MY
DIRECT ORDER AND
GO ON A SECRET
MISSION TO
MEGAPO-
LIS?!*

MIND
YOUR BLOOD
PRESSURE, MAXI-
MILLIAN...

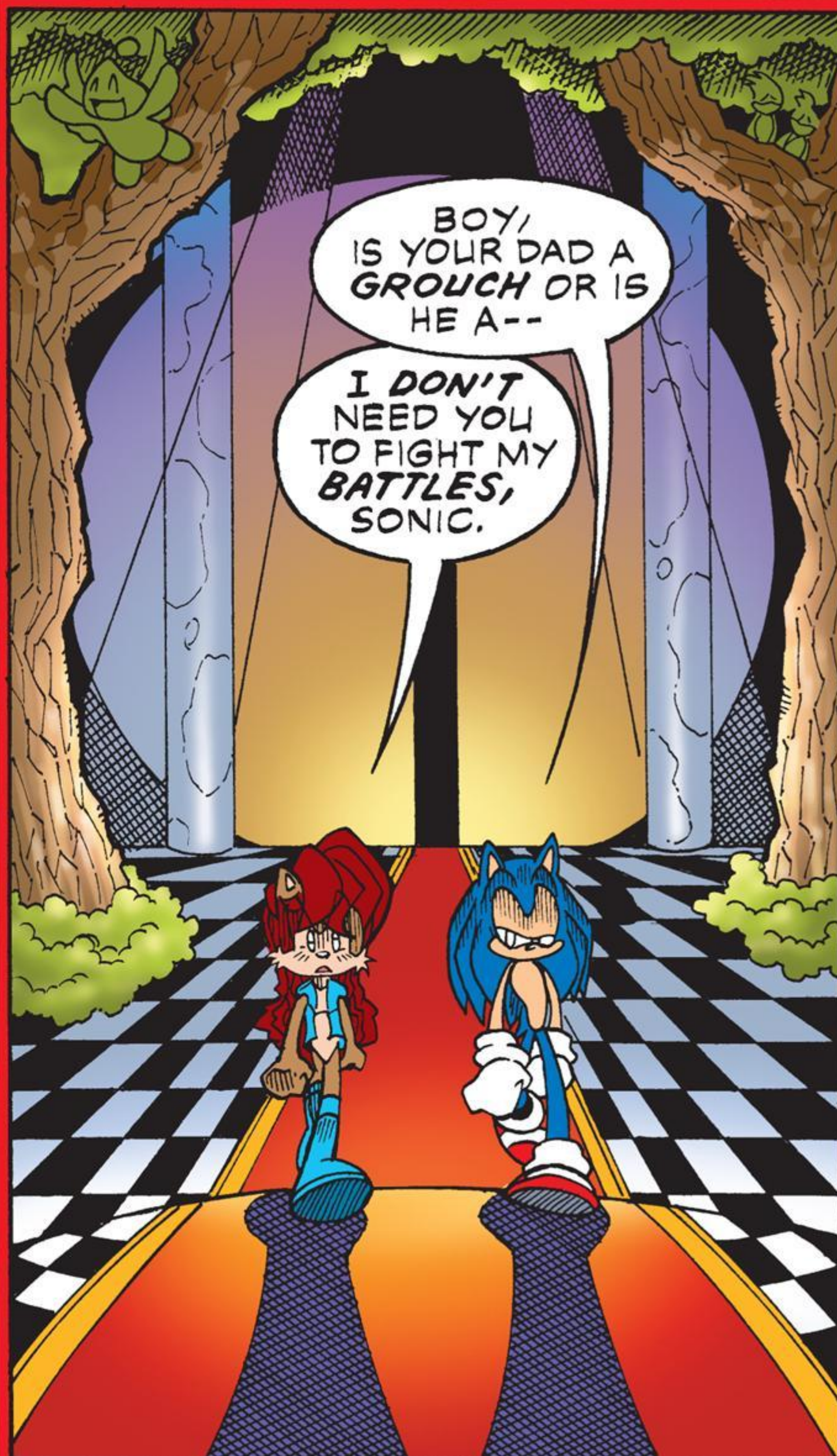
* SEE LAST ISSUE.

Uhh... WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT WAS
ALL *MY* IDEA, KING MAX? THAT I... er...
KIDNAPPED HER?

HOW CAN YOU BE TRUSTED TO RUN
AN ENTIRE CITY WHILE *QUEEN ALICIA*
AND I ARE AWAY IF YOU INSIST ON
TAKING SUCH RISKS?

I'M
SORRY...
YOUR
HIGH-
NESS.

NO!



BOY,
IS YOUR DAD A
GROUCH OR IS
HE A--

I **DON'T**
NEED YOU
TO FIGHT MY
BATTLES,
SONIC.



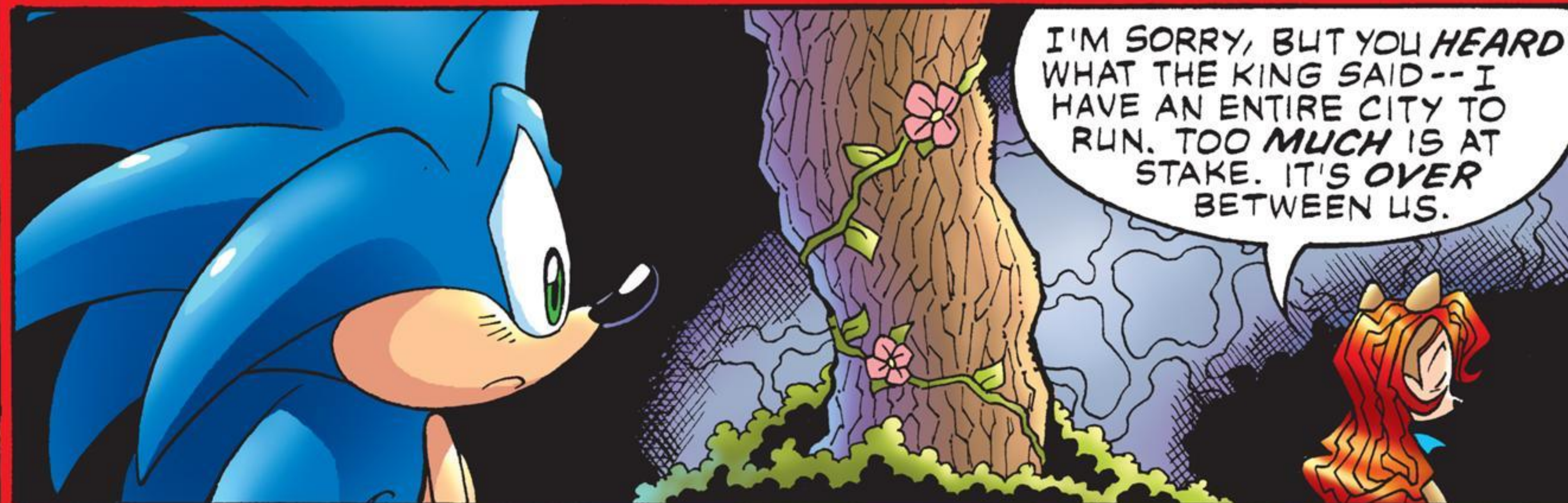
I
ONLY
DID IT
BECAUSE
I **CARE**,
SAL.

WELL,
STOP
CARING!
OKAY?



WHY KEEP **FOOLING**
OURSELVES WHEN WE
KNOW IT CAN NEVER
WORK? I'M A
PRINCESS, SONIC.

I NEED A **COMPAN-**
ION TO RULE BY MY
SIDE, NOT SOMEONE
WHO'S CONSTANTLY
PLAYING
HERO.



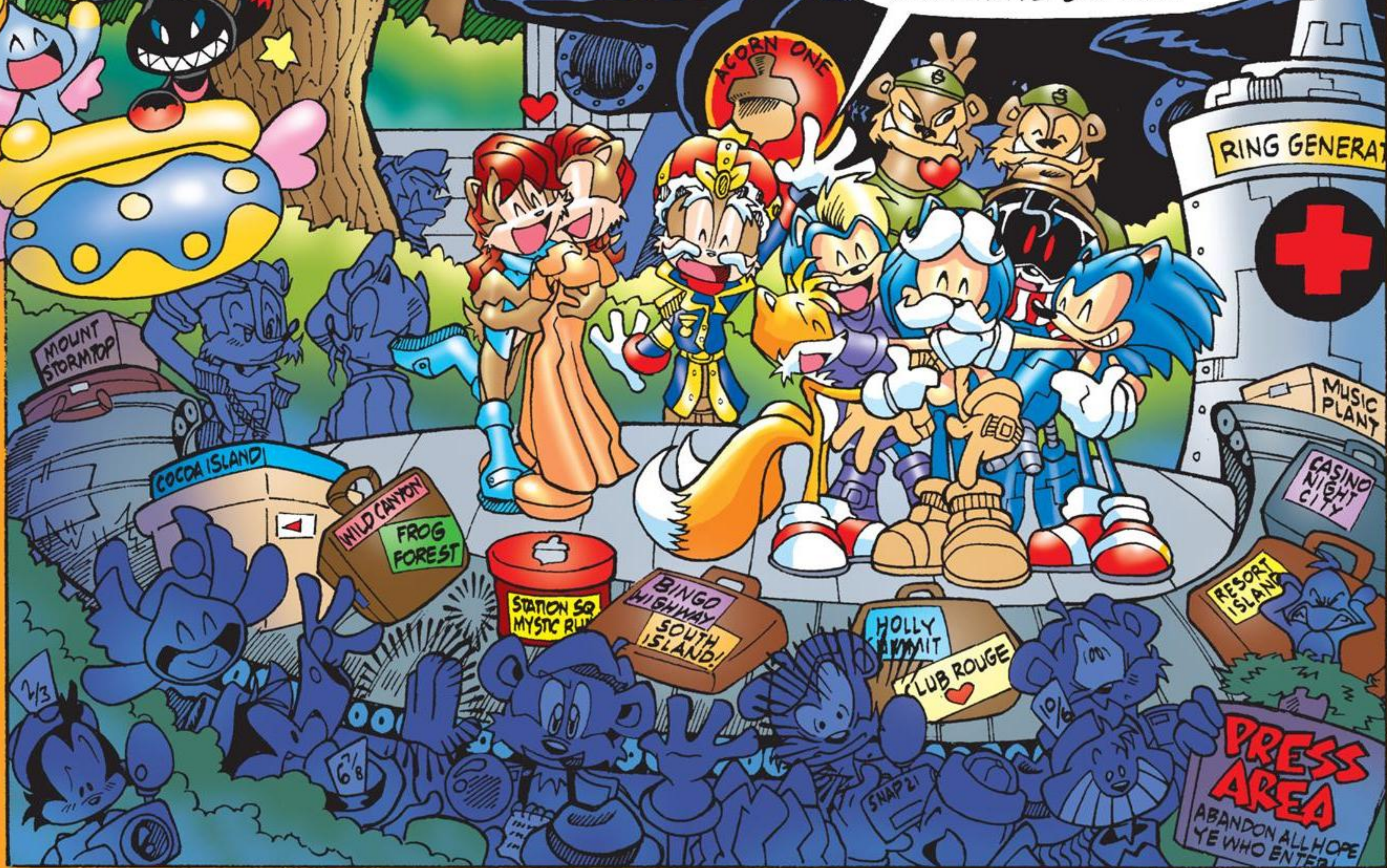
I'M SORRY, BUT YOU **HEARD**
WHAT THE KING SAID-- I
HAVE AN ENTIRE CITY TO
RUN. TOO **MUCH** IS AT
STAKE. IT'S **OVER**
BETWEEN US.

FREDERICK'S AIRBASE—

Noon

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS, THANK YOU FOR COMING OUT TO BID QUEEN ALICIA AND I FAREWELL ON OUR EXTENDED TOUR OF MOBIUS.

SIR CHARLES HEDGEHOG WILL ACCOMPANY US AS SCIENCE ADVISOR AND LIEUTENANT ANTOINE D'COULETTE WILL COMMAND OUR ELITE GUARD.



Later...

...at **UNCLE CHUCK'S DINER**

TODAY'S SPECIALS!

- KOOKY COOKIES & PIE!
- DRANO COOKIES
- CHILI DOGS
- CHOCOLATE CHICKENS
- MINT MILK SHAKES
- DEMONIC PEANUTS
- DREWDLE STRUDEL
- YUMMY LNR PUDDING

TRY TODAY'S MISTAKE!
ONLY \$1.99

SALLY'S BEING IMPOSSIBLE!
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO *WIN* THIS WAR AGAINST *ROBOTNIK*...

... IF SHE WANTS ME TO SIT OUT OF THE ACTION?

WELL, FOR A LONG TIME AFTER *KNUCKLES* RETURNED FROM THE AFTERLIFE IT WAS *UNSETTLING*.

BUT, *JULIE-SU*, YOU DON'T HAVE A *PROBLEM* WITH *KNUCKLES* GOING INTO BATTLE THE WAY *SALLY* DOES WITH *ME*, DO YOU? I MEAN, SURE, HE CAN'T *GLIDE* ANYMORE, HE'S AS WEAK AS A *KITTEN* AND PRETTY MUCH GOOD FOR *NOTHING*, BUT STILL...

! KRASH



IT'S--
IT'S--

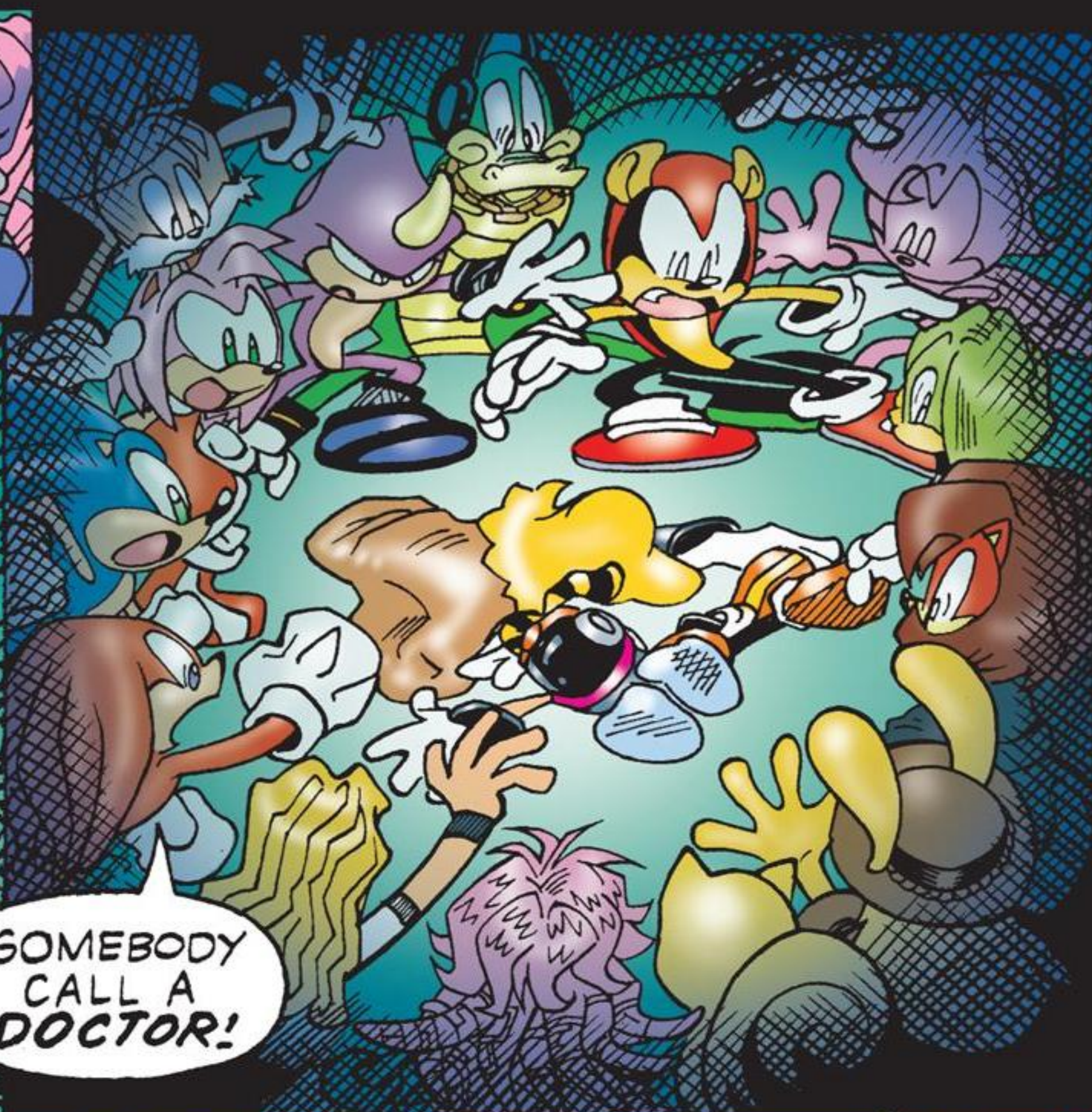
CHARMY
BEE--AND
SAFFRON?!

H-HELP,
US...



WELCOME

SOMEBODY
CALL A
DOCTOR!



CASTLE ACORN



PRINCE
CHARMY...

...NOW THAT YOU'VE RECEIVED MEDICAL
ATTENTION, CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT
HAPPENED TO YOU AND LADY
SAFFRON?



WE
LOST EVERY-
THING.



DOCTOR
ROBOTNIK SAW TO **THAT**
WHEN HE SET HIS BRUTAL
EGG PAWNS TO ATTACK
GOLDENHIVE
COLONY.

OUR
HOME.

WE COULDN'T...
FIND ANY OTHER
SURVIVORS NO
MATTER HOW HARD
WE TRIED. OUR
FAMILIES... OUR...
NEIGHBORS...

GONE.

I-I'M SORRY FOR
YOUR **LOSS**. EGGMAN
WILL **PAY** FOR THIS.
I PROMISE.

Er... SORRY TO **INTERRUPT**,
YOUR HIGHNESS, BUT WE'RE
RECEIVING A GARBLED TRANS-
MISSION ON THE **TECHNOLO-**
TREE-- WE THINK IT'S
FOR HIM!

ME?!

THAT **DOES** IT! NOBODY
PUTS **MY** OLD MAN IN
LOCKDOWN! I'M PACKING
A **BAG** FOR--

LOCKE
≡SQWWKKK≡
HELD PRISONER
≡SQWWKKK≡
ANGEL
ISLAND--



KNUCKLES--
WAIT! IT
COULD BE A
TRAP!

I'M **OUT**
OF PATIENCE,
SALLY!

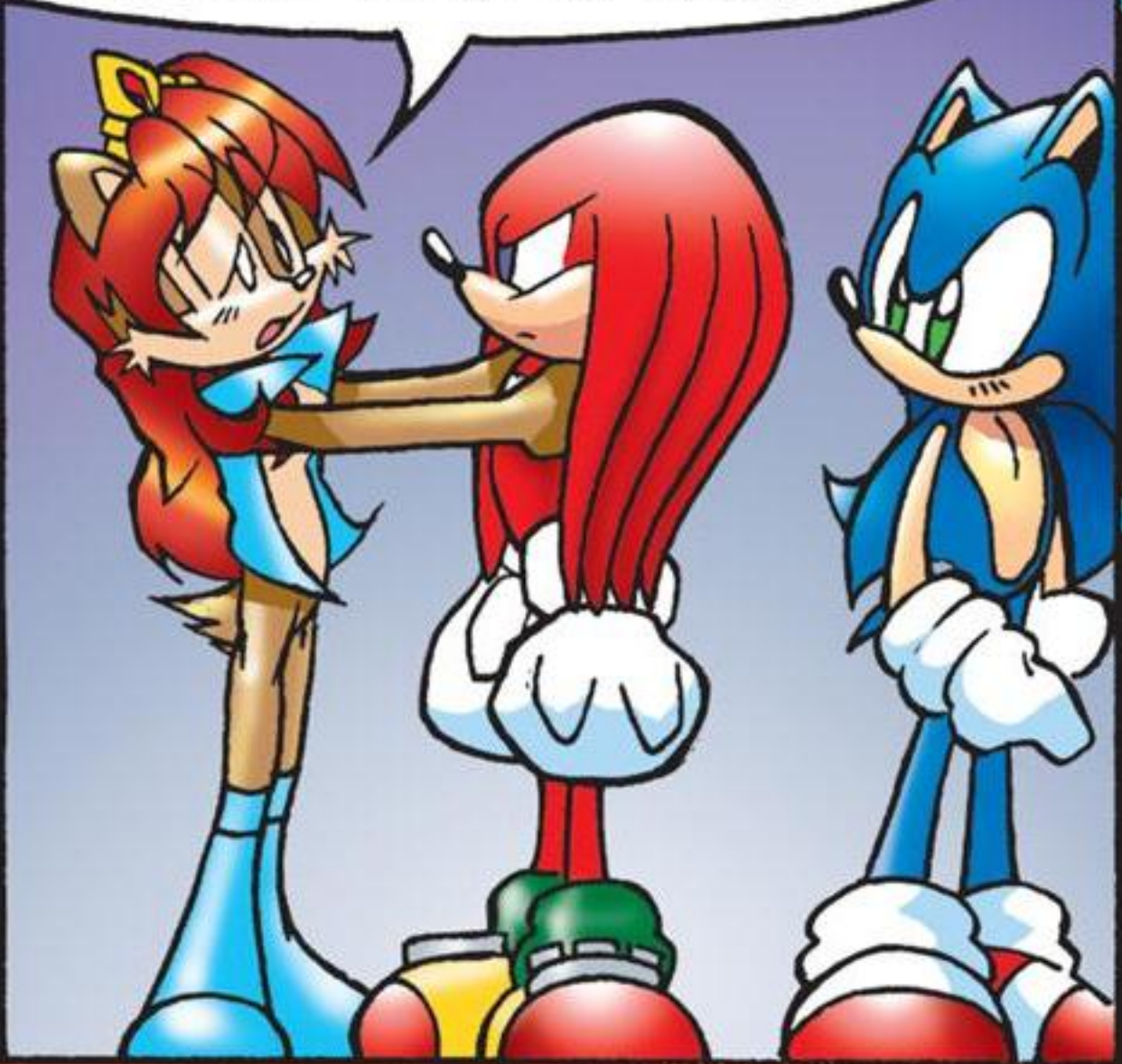


IT'S TIME FOR ME 'N'
THE **CHAOTIX** TO SAVE
MY DAD!

COUNT ME
IN!

SIGH-- OKAY, BUT THIS **ISN'T**
A MISSION TO LIBERATE ANGEL
ISLAND FROM ROBOTNIK,
MERELY ONE TO **FIND** AND
RESCUE YOUR FATHER.

SONIC-- UH-UH! NO **WAY!** DON'T SAY NO BECAUSE I'M
GOING, THERE'S NO STOPPING ME. IT'S WHO I
AM, IT'S WHAT I **DO**, NO TWO WAYS ABOUT
IT AND THAT'S **THAT!**



-- I EXPECT A
FULL REPORT WHEN
YOU RETURN!



WILL YOU
GET A **MOVE**
ON?

ANGEL ISLAND— Night

CHARMY...?
ARE YOU **SURE**
ABOUT COMING
ALONG WITH
US?

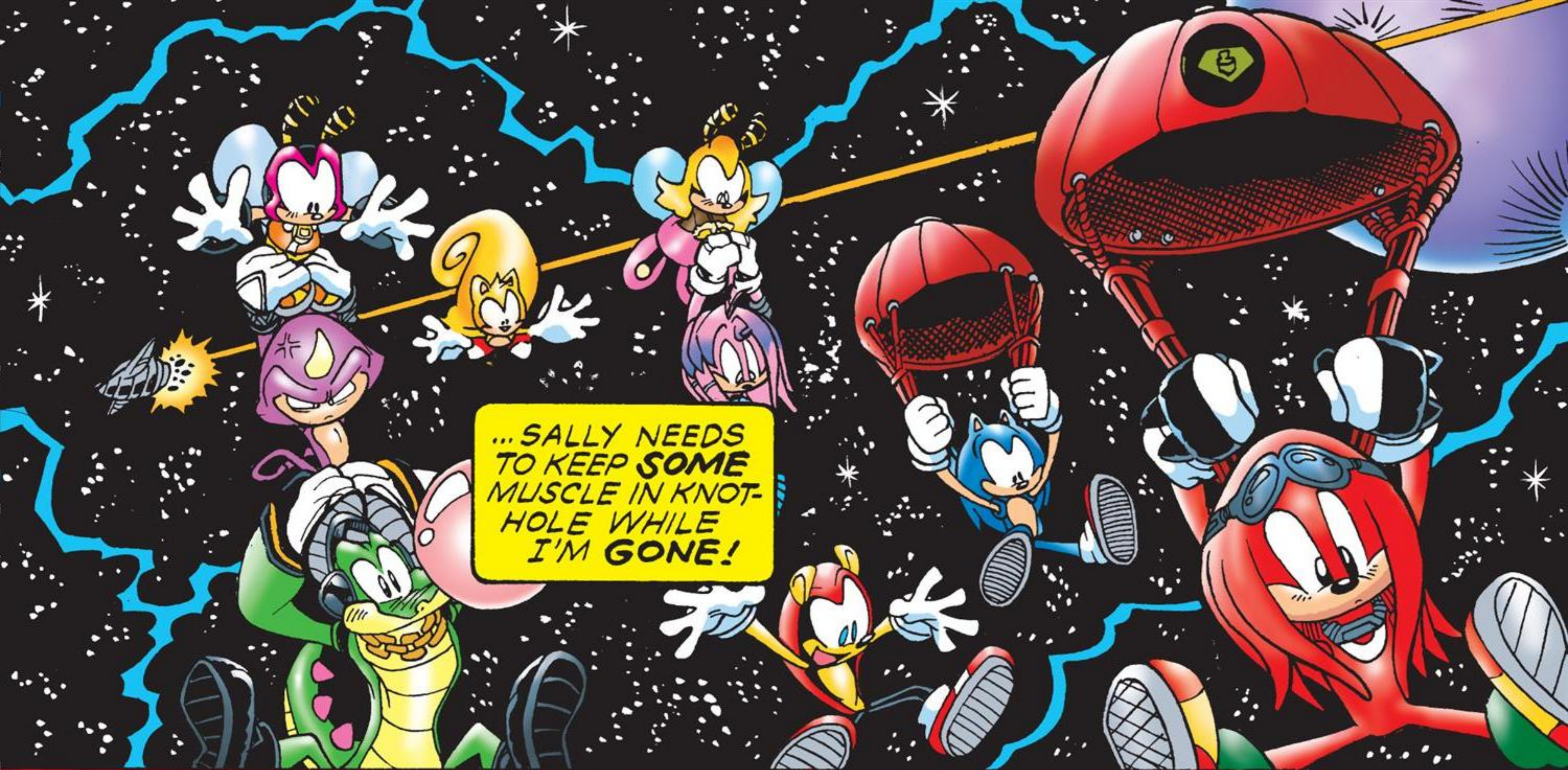
IF
IT'S A
CHANCE
TO PAY
BACK
EGG-
MAN--

AH
DON'T
**UNDER-
STAND** WHY
AH CAN'T COME
ALONG ON
THE MISSION
WITH Y'ALL,
SUGAH-
HOG...

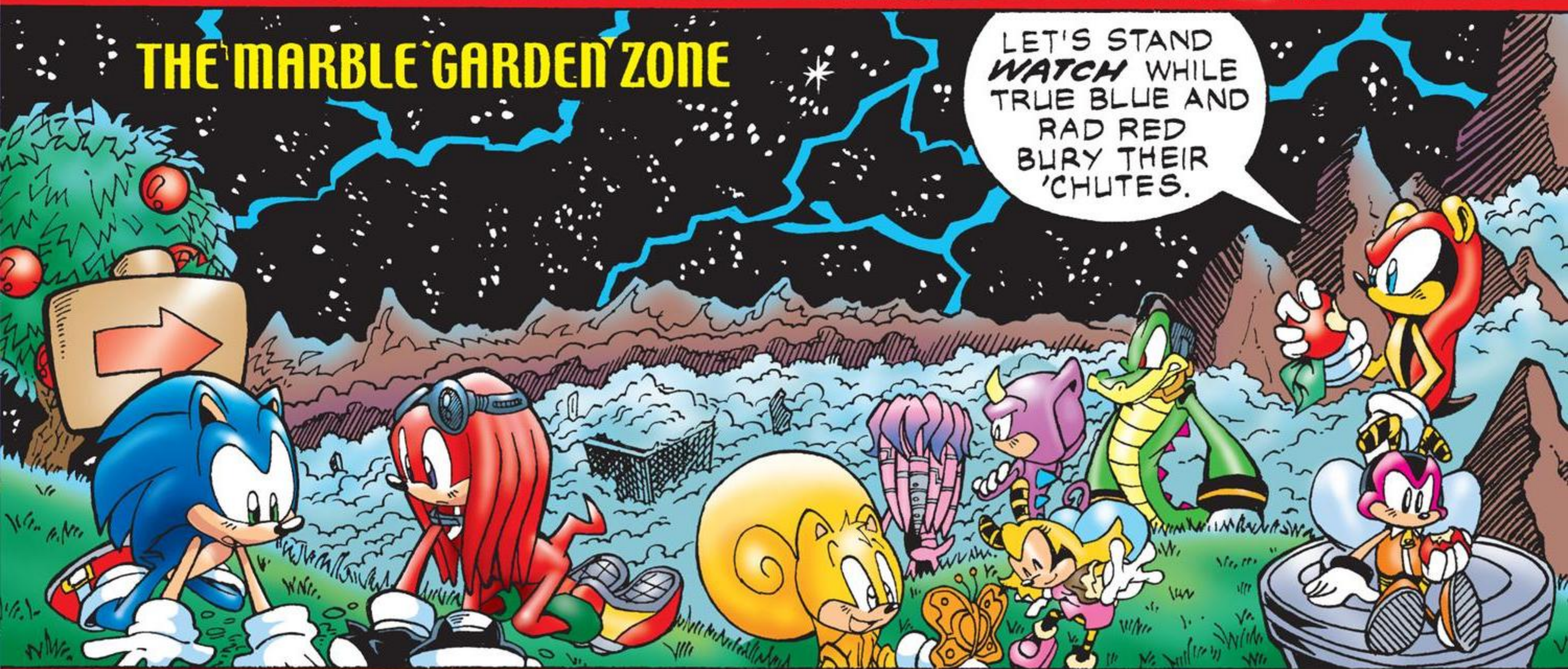
COME ON,
BUNNIE...

--YOU
BET!





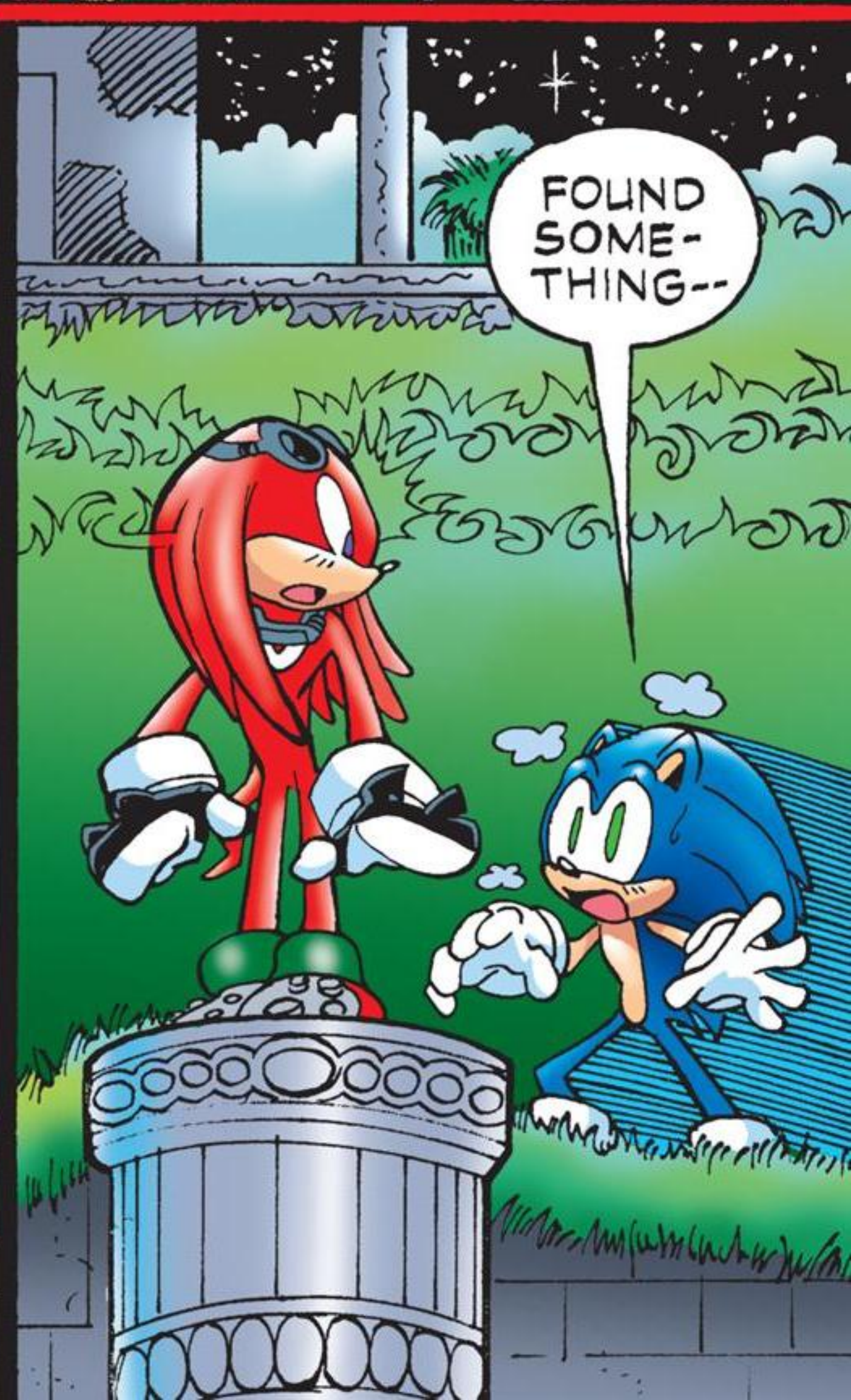
THE MARBLE GARDEN ZONE



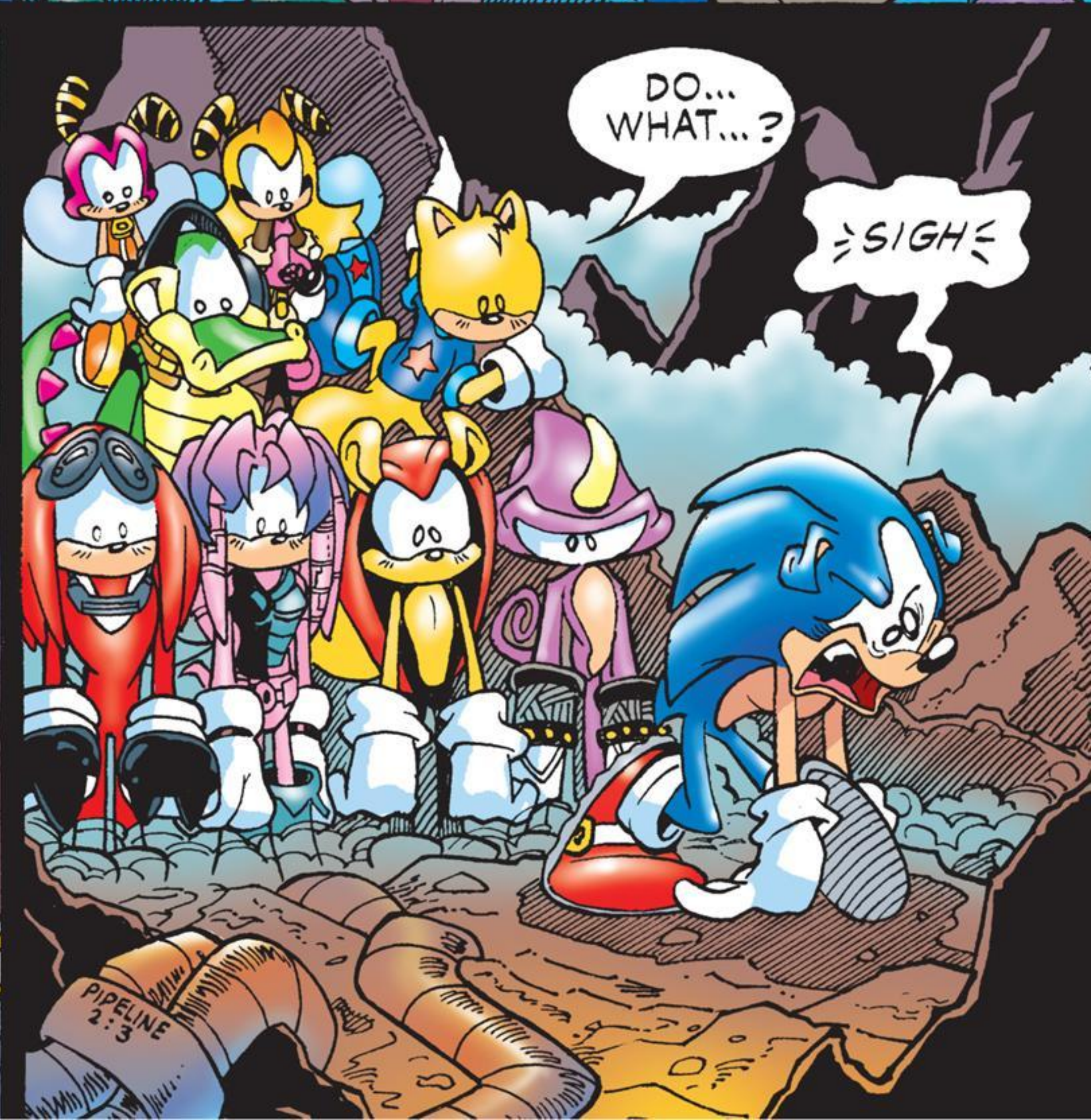
SONIC, WHY DON'T YOU DO SOME HIGH-SPEED RECON--

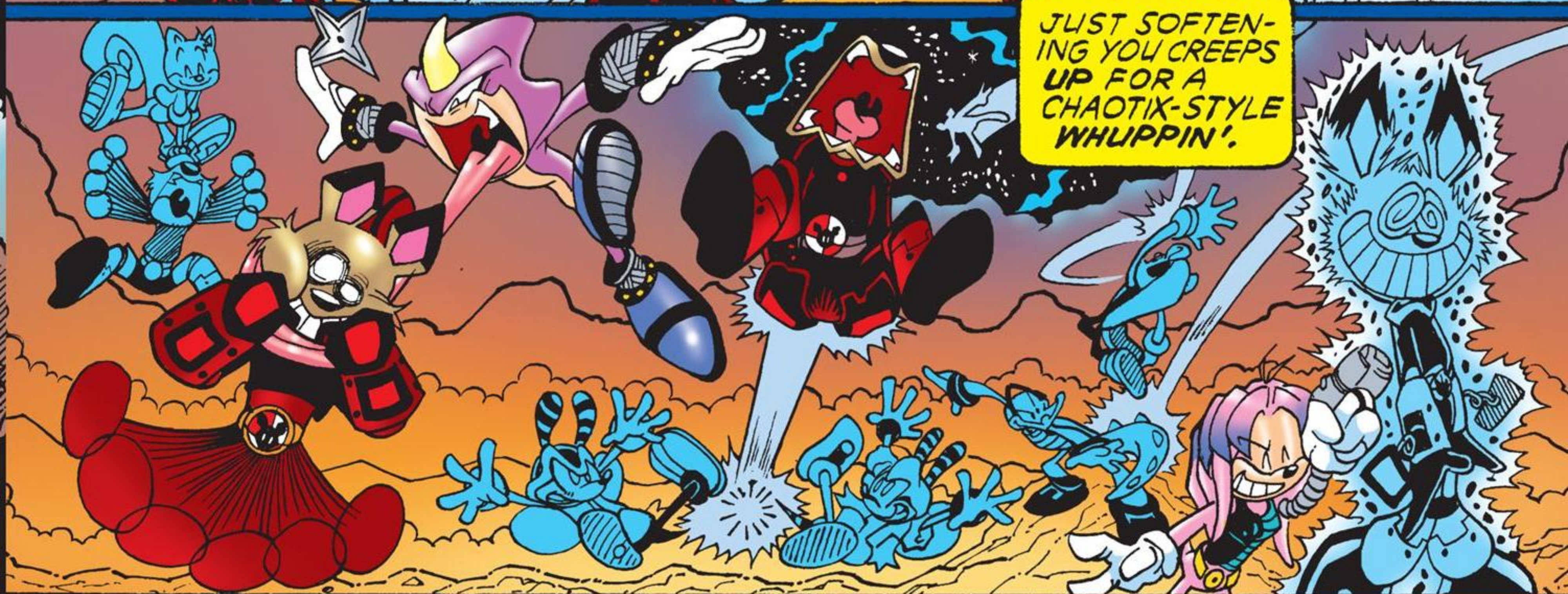
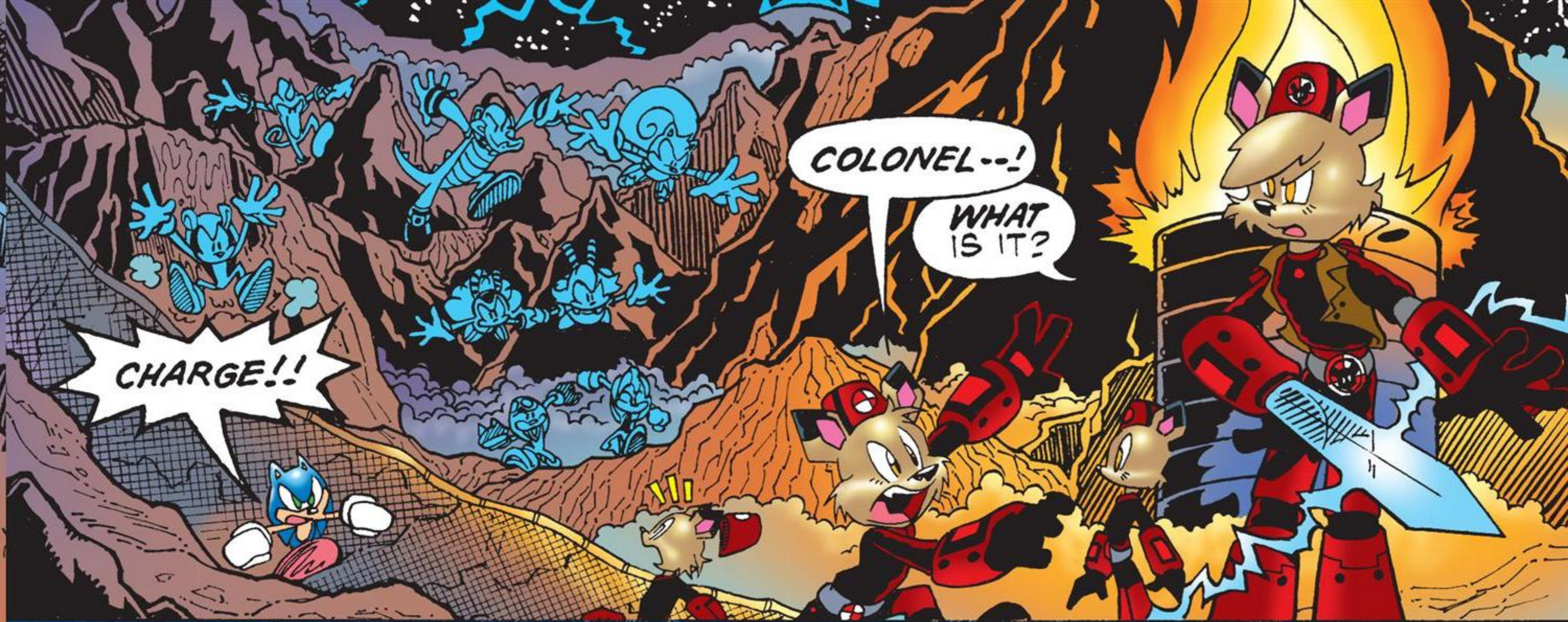


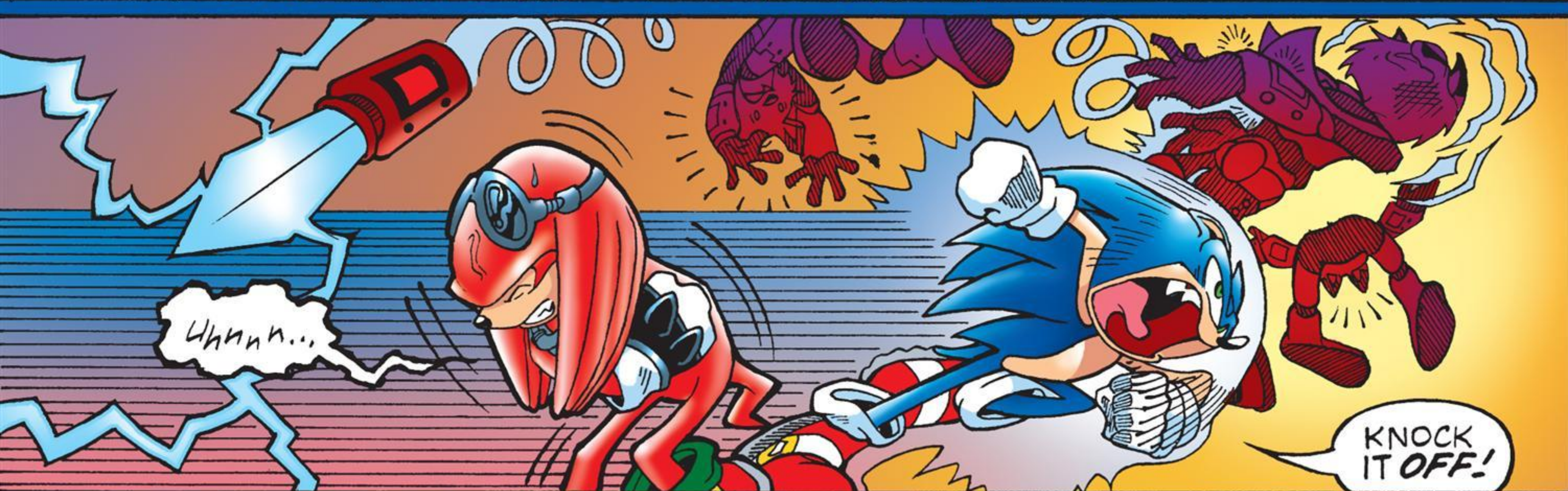
--AND TELL US WHAT YOU--

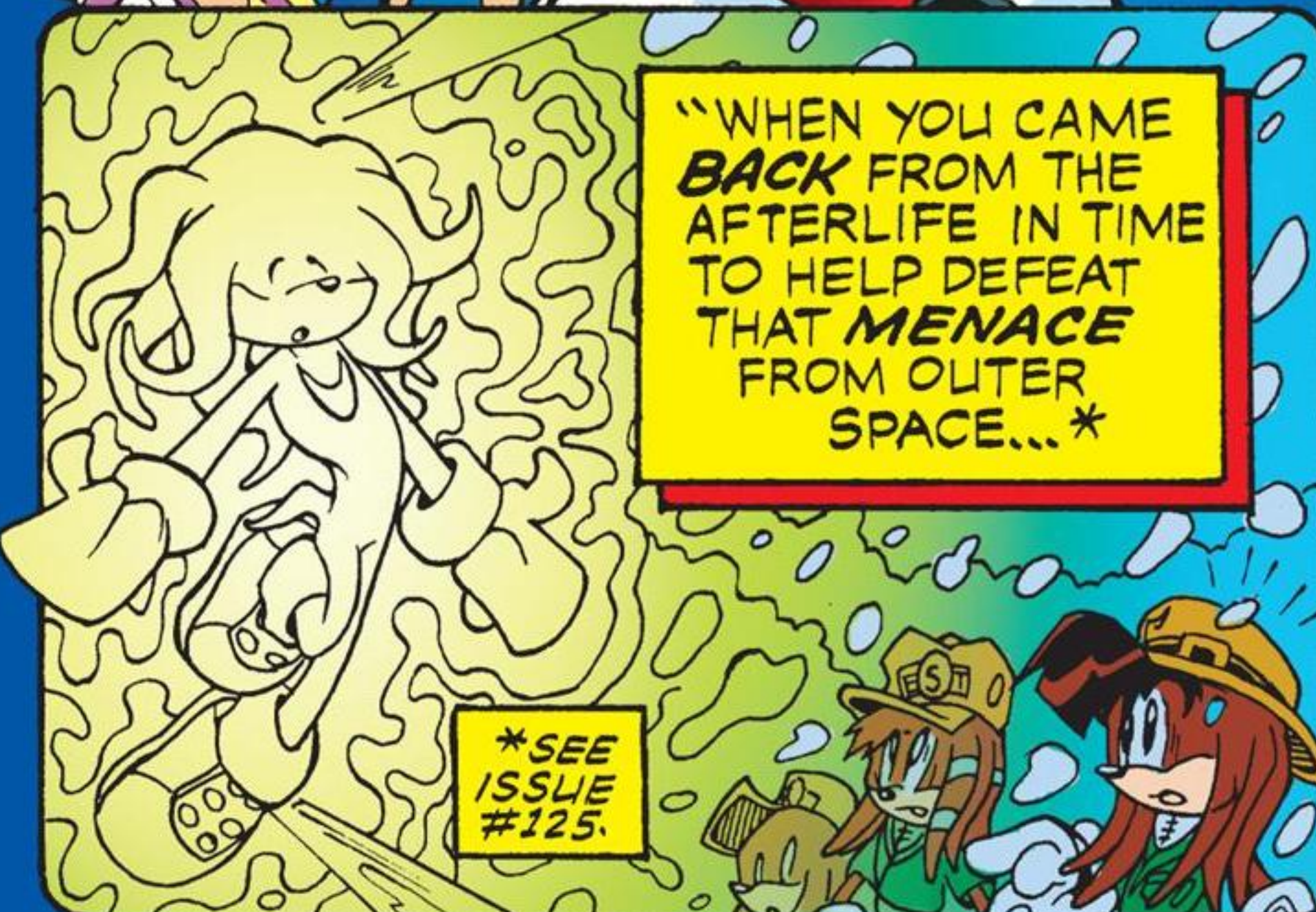


FOUND SOMETHING--









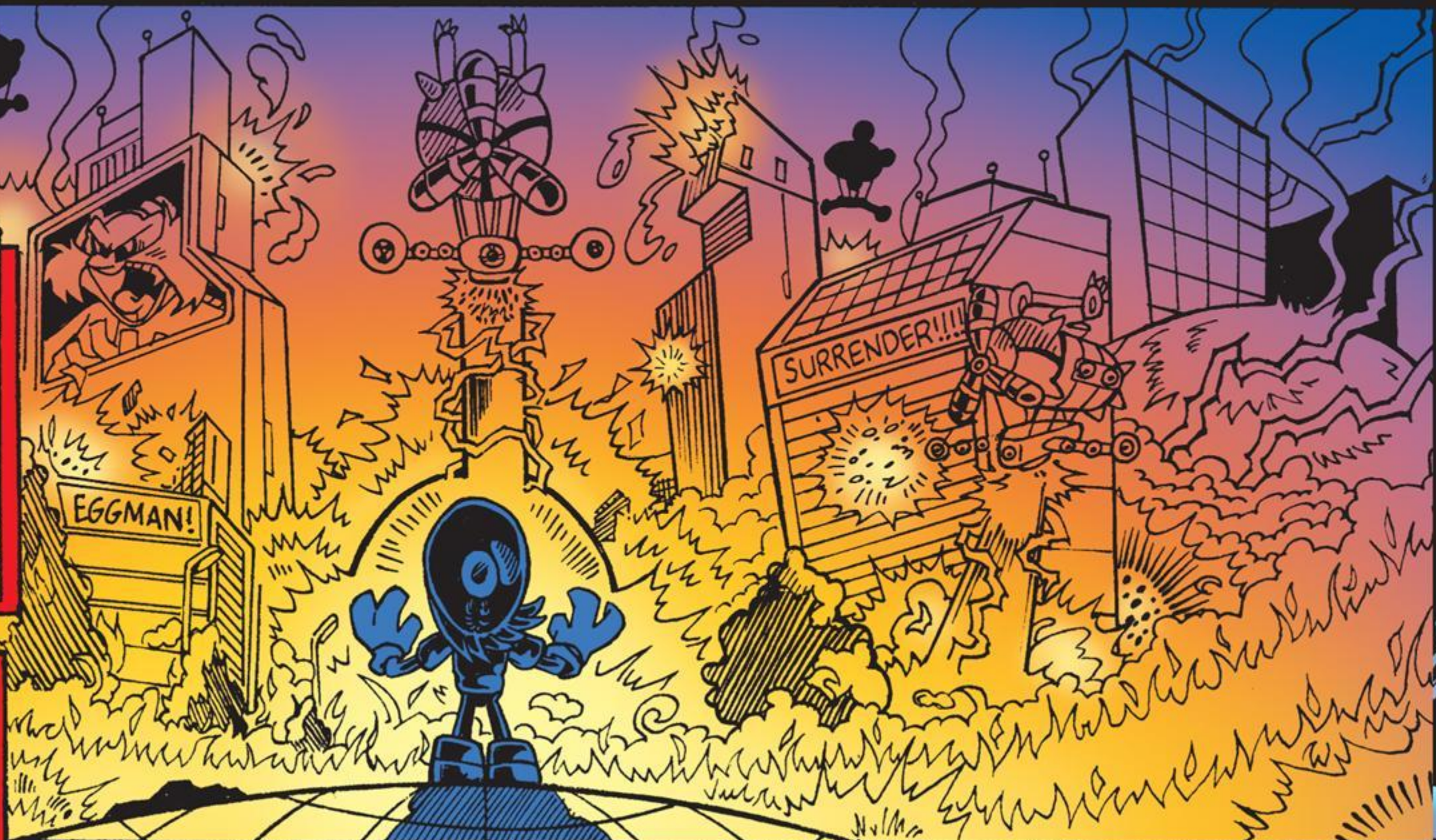
"...THAT I
BEGAN TO
SEE THE
TRUTH.



" BUT, IT
WAS TOO
LATE...

"...THE DINGOES HAD
ALREADY SOLD US
OUT IN EXCHANGE
FOR THEIR OWN
FREEDOM, AND
ECHIDNAOPOLIS SOON
CAME UNDER ATTACK
FROM ROBOTNIK'S
INVASION FORCE.

" I WAS **CAPTURED**
AND THROWN INTO A
DUNGEON WHERE I
WAS IMPRISONED
FOR **MONTHS**
BEFORE I
WOUND UP..."



"...HERE, STILL, WE **KNEW**
YOU WOULD RETURN TO
FREE US, AVATAR! WE
HAD **FAITH!**

FAITH
IN
WHAT?

IN THE **PROPHECY OF THE
ANCIENT WALKERS**, IT
STATES THAT, "A **CHAMPION**
WILL BYPASS THE AFTER-
LIFE AND RETURN HENCE
TO DELIVER THE WORLD
FROM ITS SUFFERING..."

REMINGTON...



"... I THINK
YOU GUYS HAVE
GOT THE **WRONG**
ECHIDNA.



DINGO CITY (formerly Echidnaopolis)



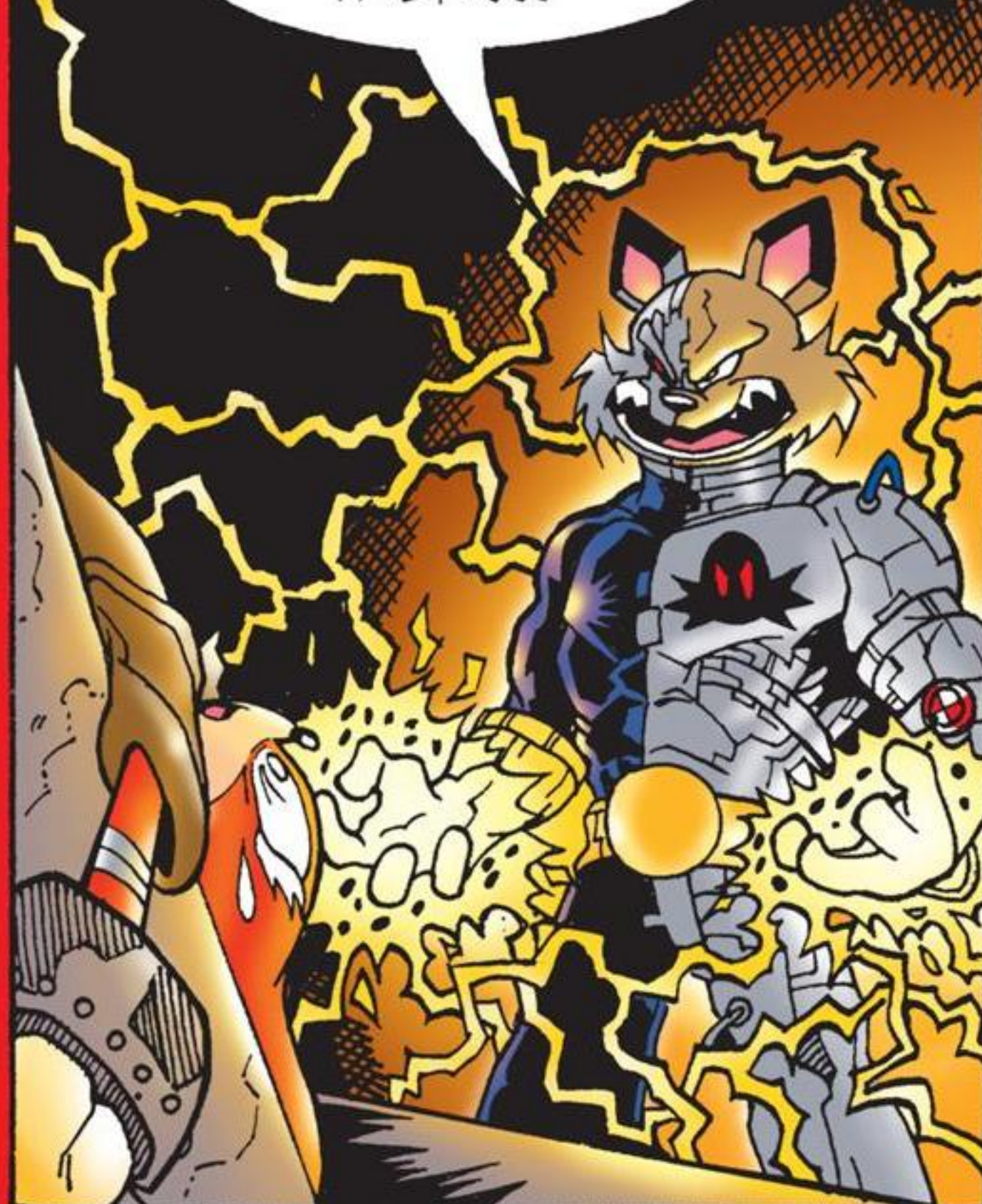
THAT MEANS I NEED TO *KNOW* WHERE IT IS! IT *HAS* TO BE THERE, OTHERWISE ANGEL ISLAND WOULDN'T BE *AFLOAT*, AND THIS ECHIDNA *UPSTART* IS THE KEY TO FINDING IT!



MAKE HIM *TALK*!



DO YOU HEAR THAT, *LOCKE*? YOU AND I ARE GOING TO *HAVE* A LONG "TALK..."



THE LAVA REEF ZONE



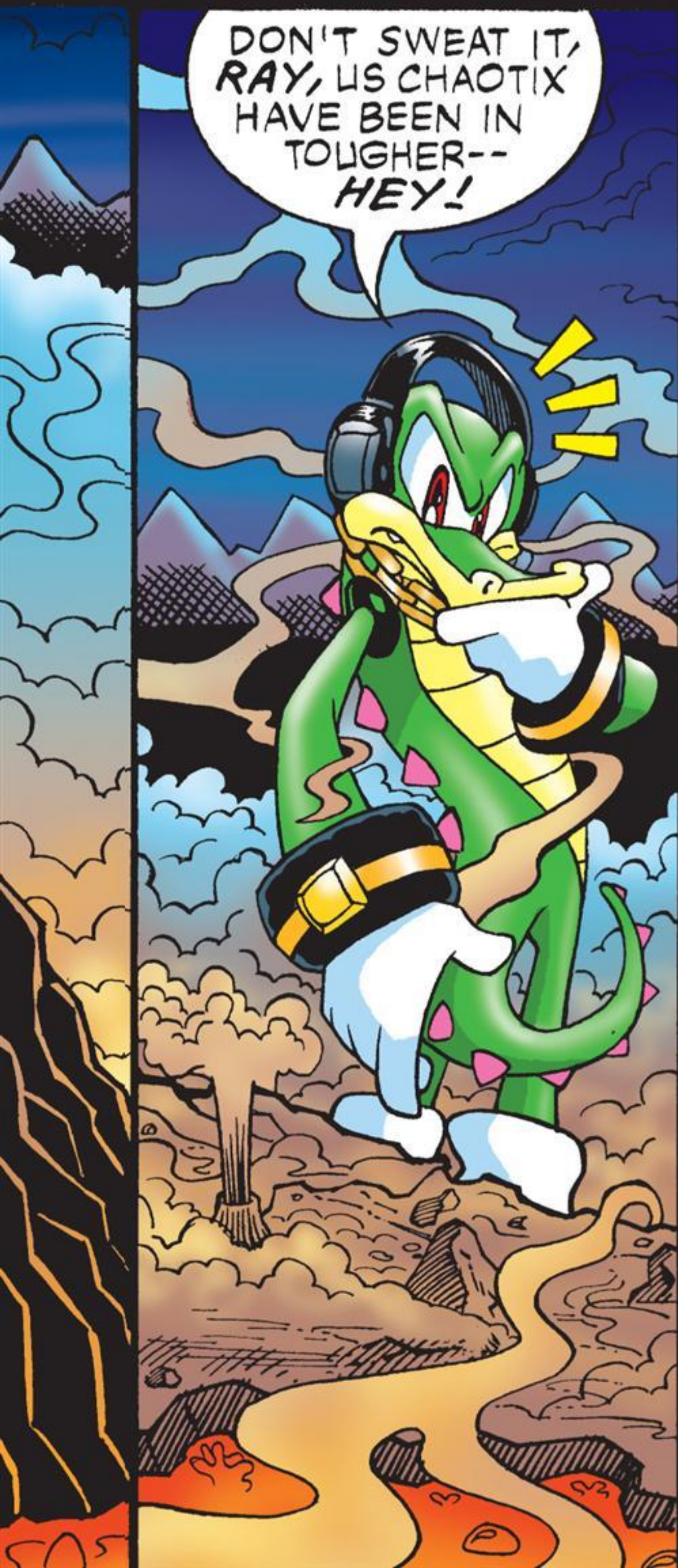
THIS IS *WHERE* THE TECHNOLO-TREE'S TRANSMISSION ORIGINATED...

WHY THE HECK WOULD *ANY-BODY* WANT TO SET UP SHOP ON *THIS* SIDE O' THE ISLAND, KNUX?

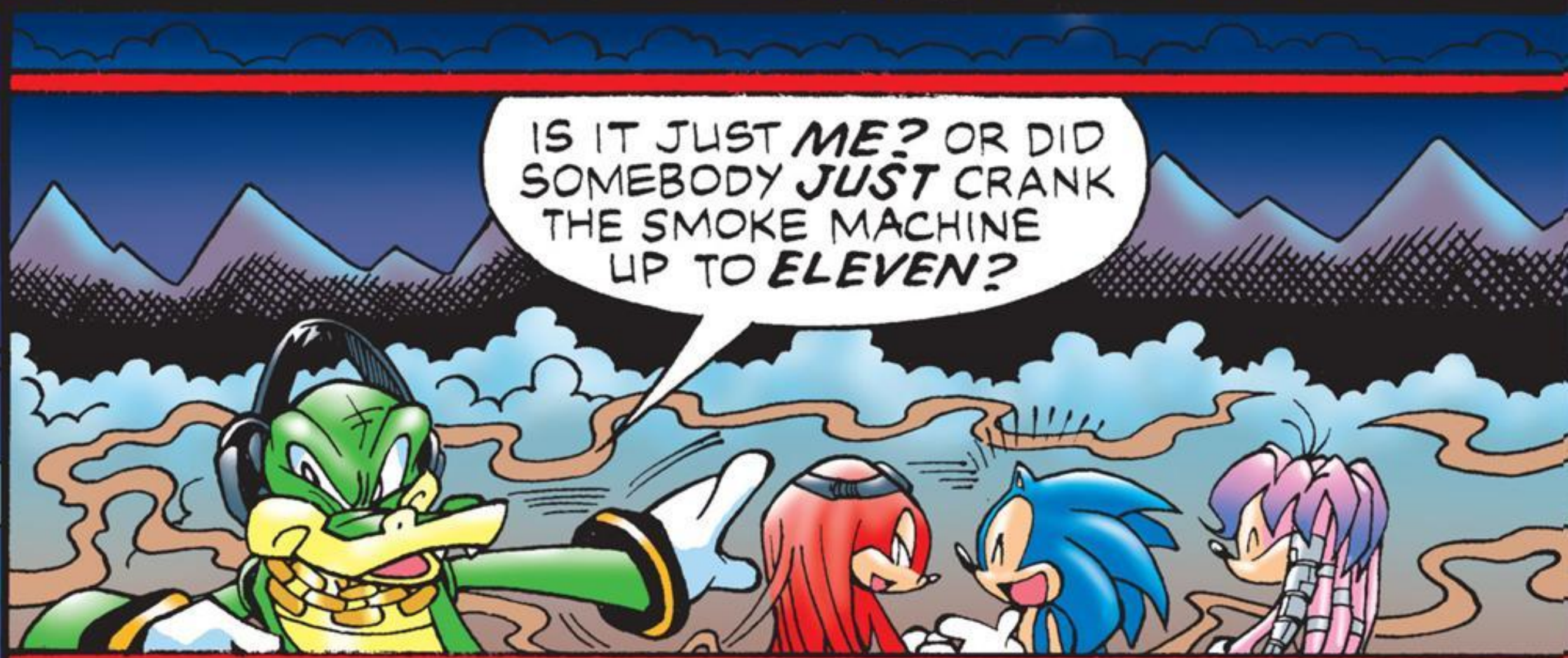
I'VE GOTCHA, *ESPIO*.

THANKS, *MIGHTY*.

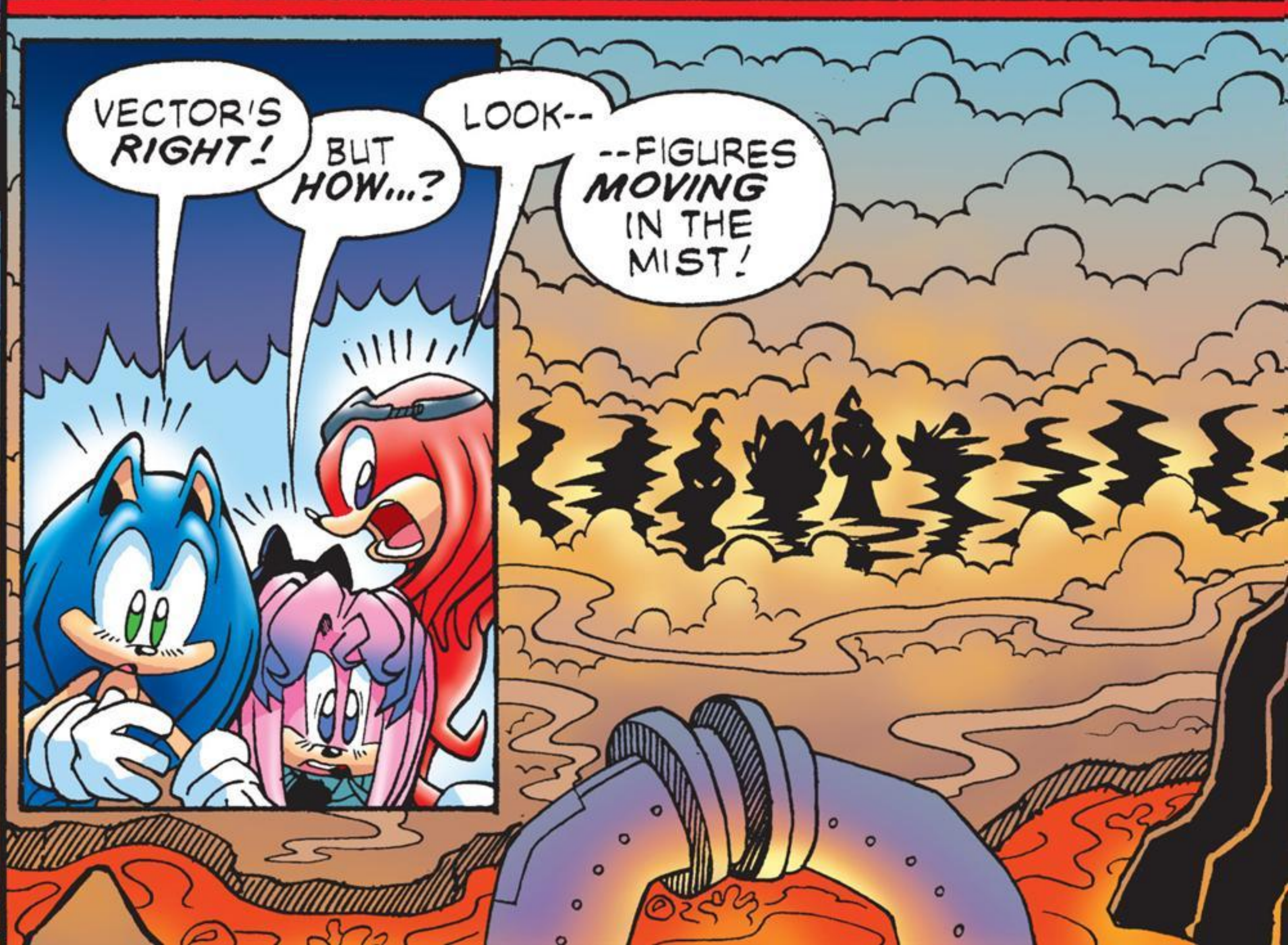
VECTOR, COULDN'T WHOEVER'S *HOLDING* KNUCKLES' DAD PRISONER HAVE PICKED SOMEPLACE LESS, Y'KNOW, *SCARY*?



DON'T SWEAT IT, *RAY*, US CHAOTIX HAVE BEEN IN TOUGHER-- *HEY!*



IS IT JUST *ME*? OR DID SOMEBODY *JUST* CRANK THE SMOKE MACHINE UP TO *ELEVEN*?



VECTOR'S RIGHT!

BUT *HOW...*?

LOOK--

--FIGURES *MOVING* IN THE MIST!



WELL,
IF IT ISN'T
THE **DARK**
LEGION...

...THEN
I'M NOT FAST,
COOL OR GOOD-
LOOKING!

**TO BE
CONTINUED!**

THG!
12604

INDUBIUS

25 YEARS LATER

KING SONIC AND HIS FAMILY ARE PAYING ONE OF THEIR INFREQUENT VISITS TO ANGEL ISLAND AT THE INVITATION OF THE GUARDIAN KNUCKLES. UNKNOWN TO THE RECENTLY ARRIVED GUESTS, WHAT WAS ONCE A SIMPLE SOCIAL OCCASION HAS NOW TAKEN ON GREATER IMPORTANCE DUE TO RECENT EVENTS...

MY DINNER WITH SONIC

I SWEAR, JULIE-SU, IF IT WERE UP TO SONIC, OUR TWO FAMILIES WOULD NEVER GET TOGETHER!

HE JUST LOATHES TO TRAVEL ANYMORE THESE DAYS!

KNUCKLES WAS NEVER MUCH OF A SOCIALIZER, EITHER, SALLY!

ALTHOUGH HE DID SURPRISE ME WHEN HE KEPT ASKING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S ARRIVAL!

HE NEVER SEEMED TO CARE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER BEFORE!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!

SONIC RARELY TALKS TO ANYONE BEYOND THOSE HE HAS TO DEAL WITH!

HE HASN'T EVEN SPOKEN TO TAILS, GOING ON THREE YEARS NOW!

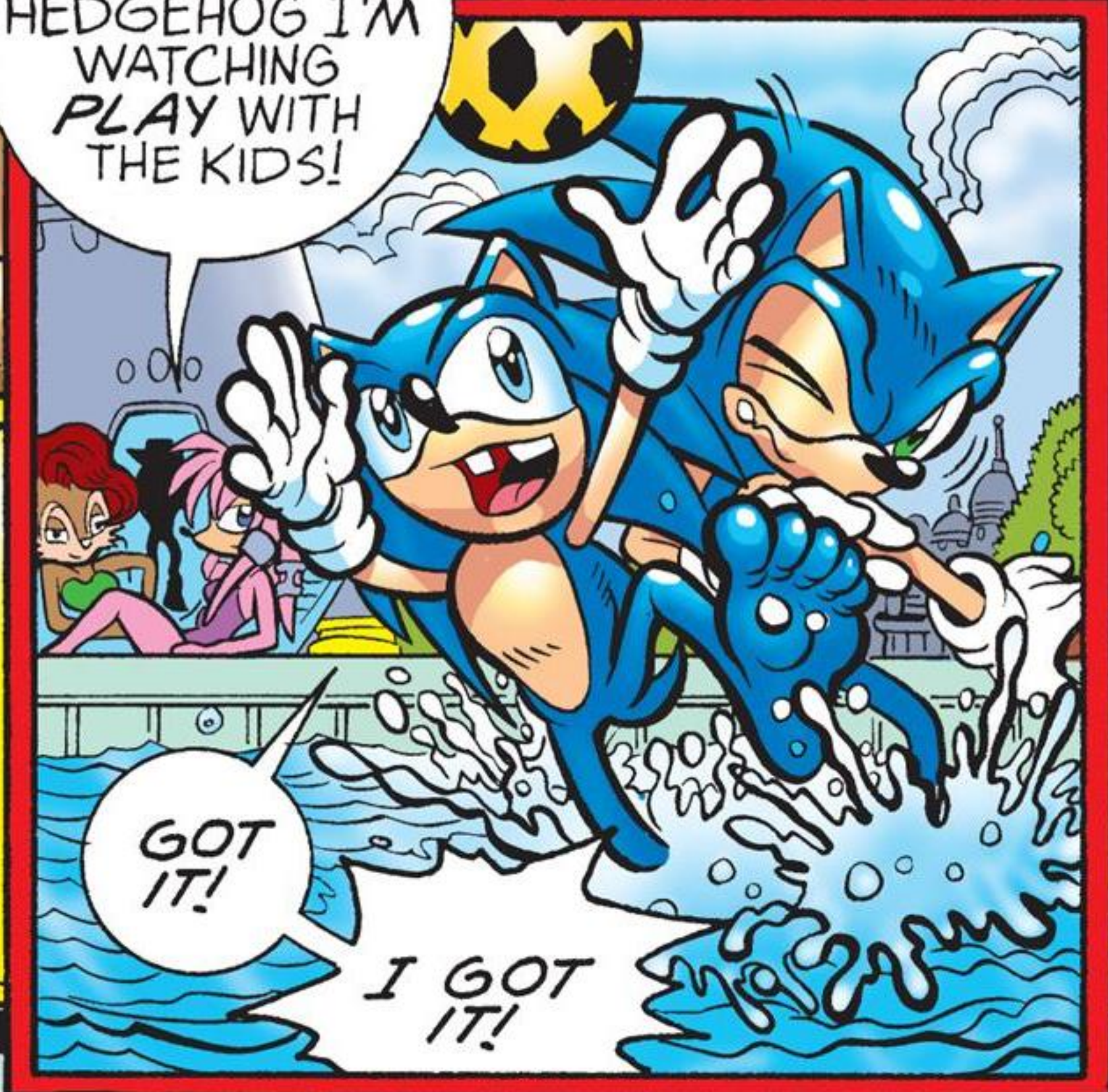
REALLY?



OH, YES!
WHEN TAILS TOOK
OFF TO MOVE
DOWNUNDA--

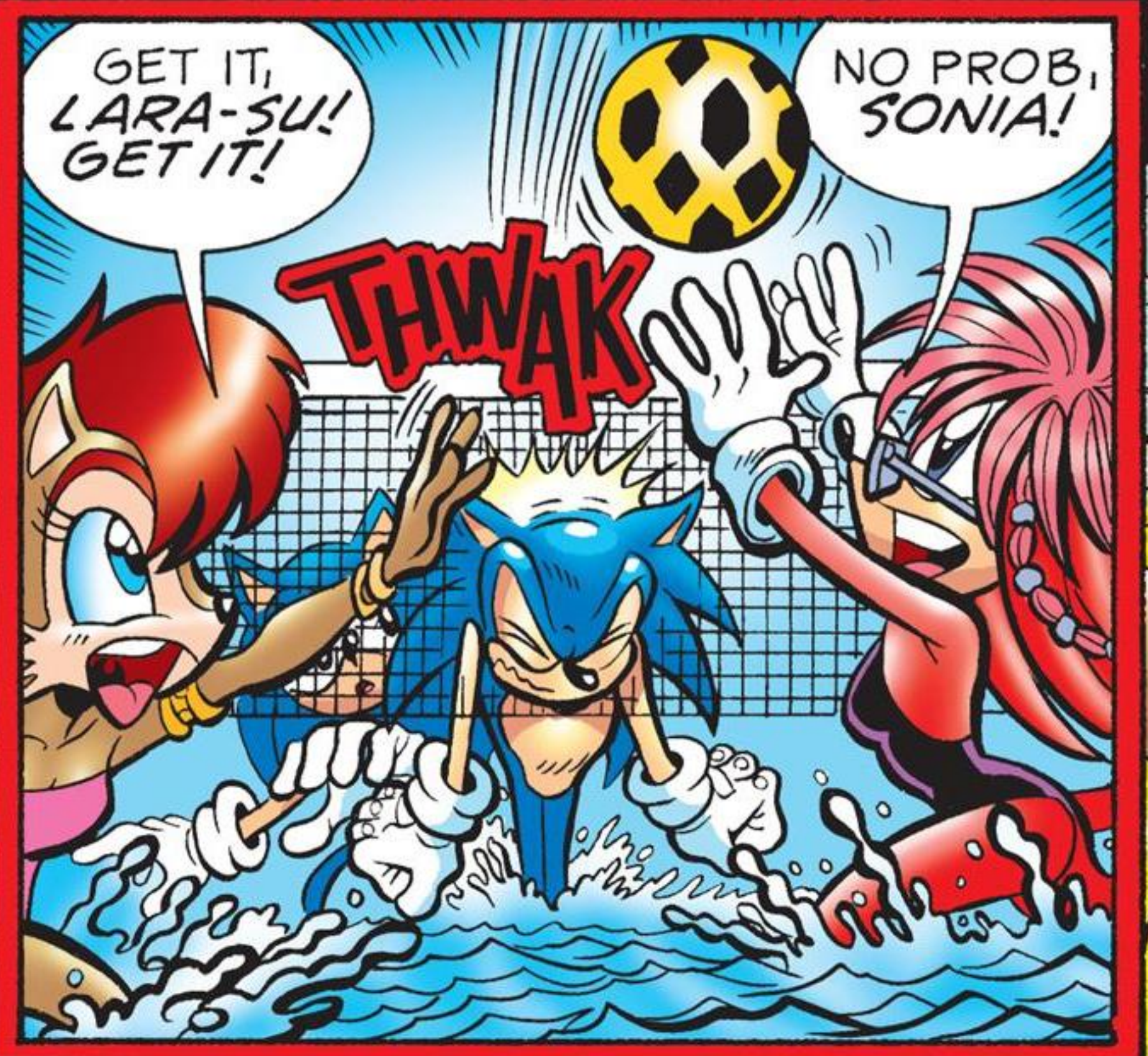
SONIC
DIDN'T EVEN
SHOW UP AT
THE TRANSPORT
CENTER TO SAY
GOOD-BYE!

DOESN'T
SOUND LIKE
THE SAME
HEDGEHOG I'M
WATCHING
PLAY WITH
THE KIDS!



GOT
IT!

I GOT
IT!



GET IT,
LARA-SU!
GET IT!

NO PROB,
SONIA!

THWAK



BACK
ATCHA,
MANIK!



I GOT
IT! I
GOT
IT!

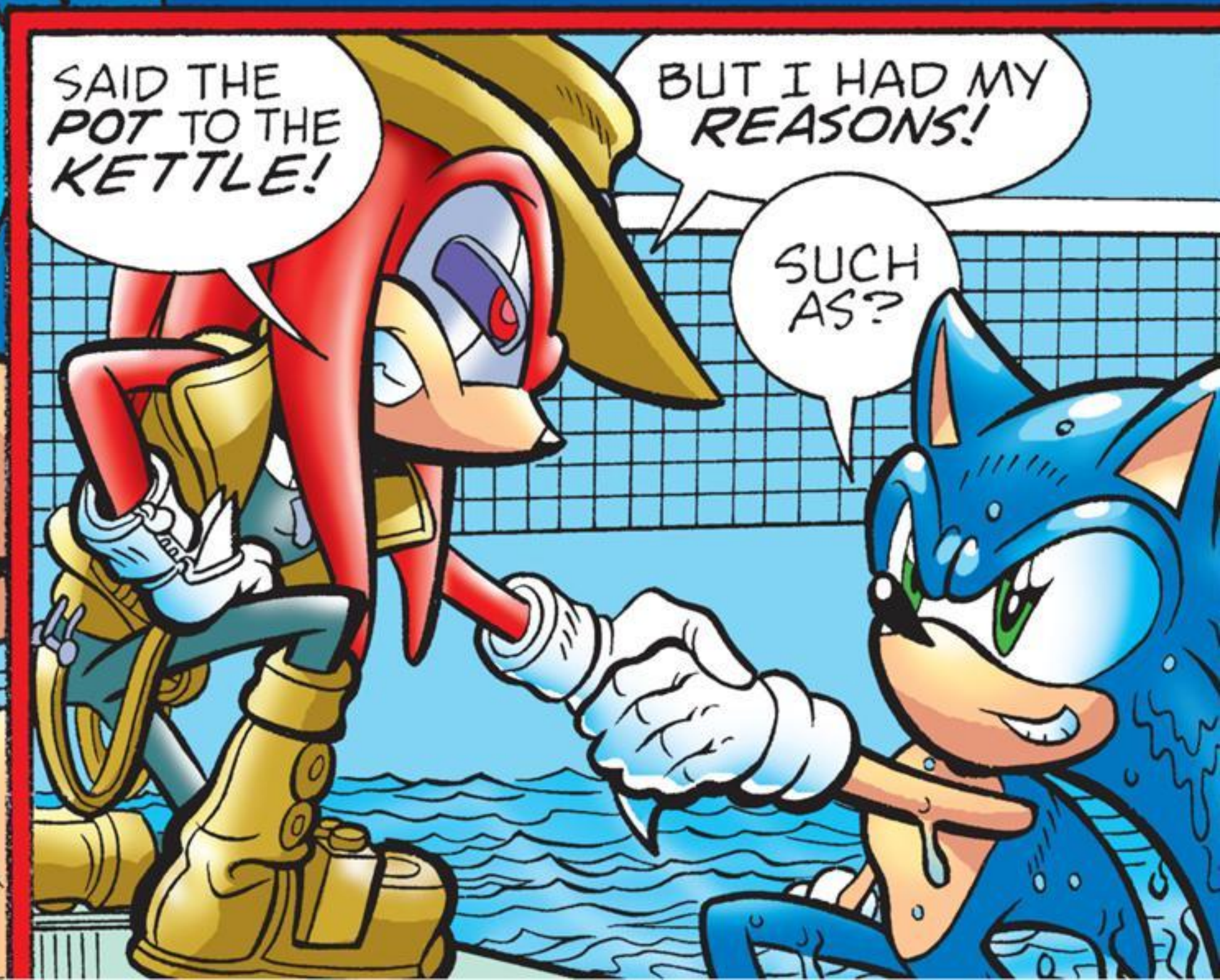
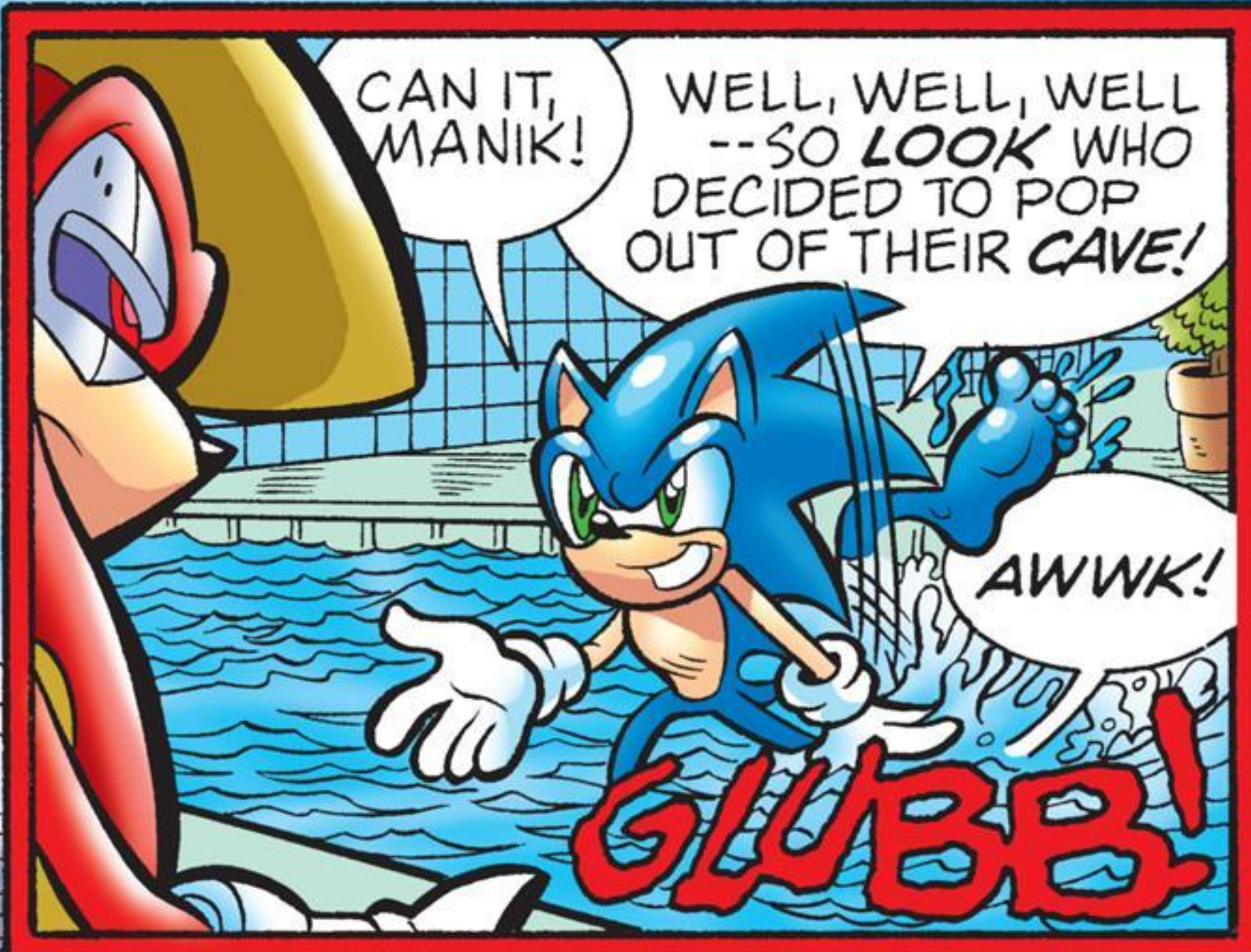
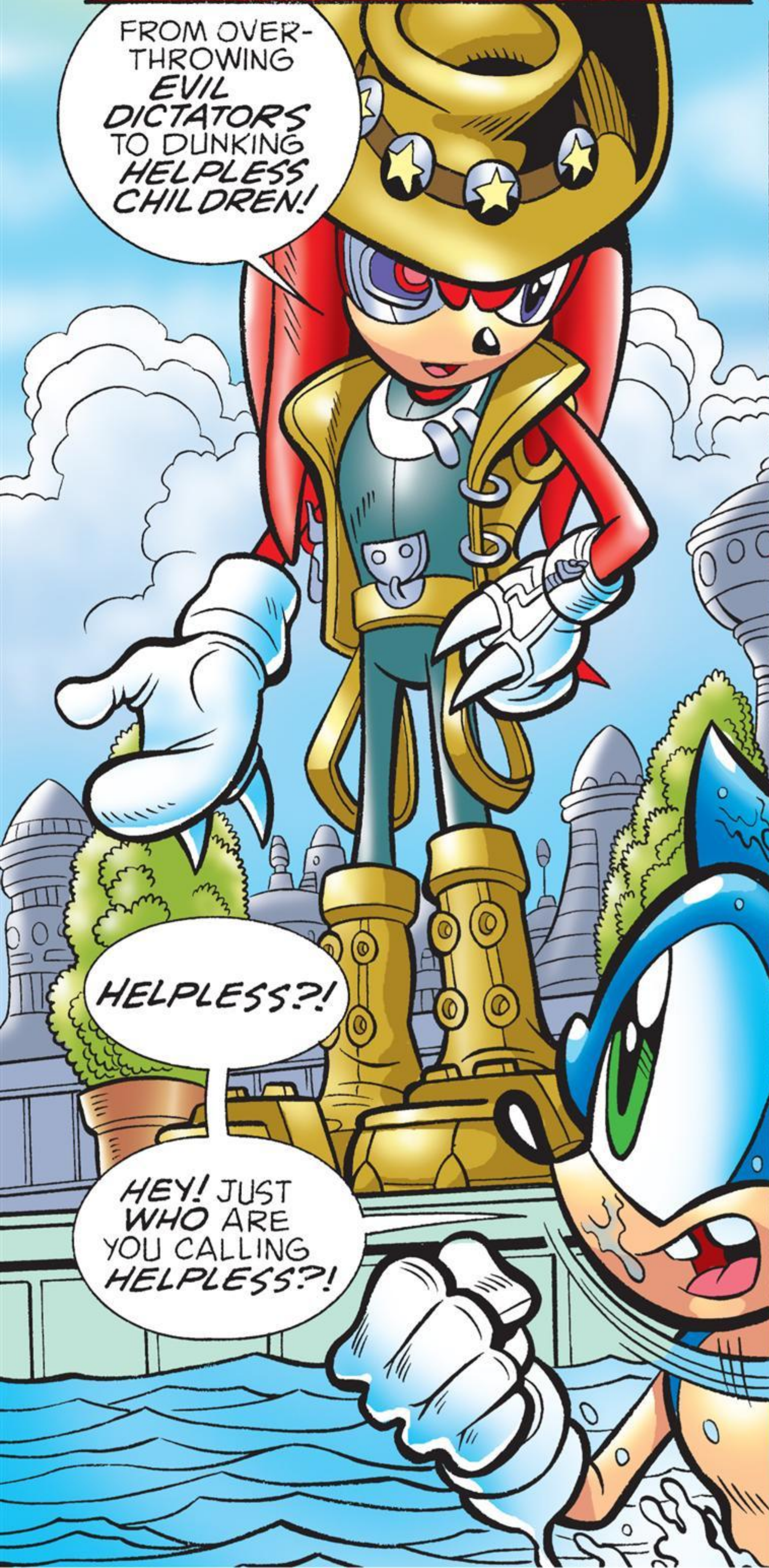
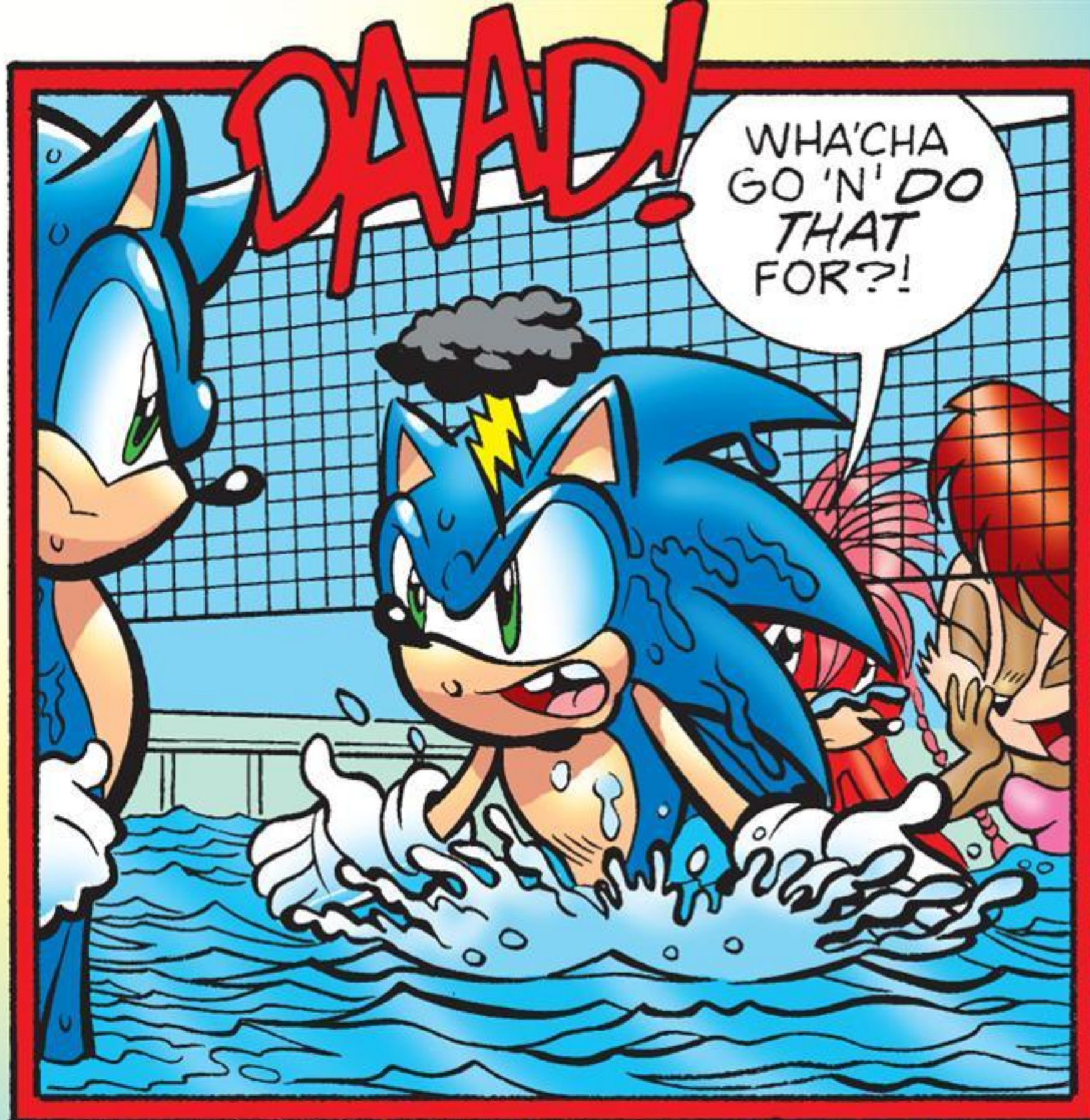


NO, I
GOT
IT!

QUIT
BEING
SUCH A
'HOG,
MANIK!

THWAK

SPLASH



I ACTUALLY HADN'T
COUNTED ON THIS BEING
ANYTHING MORE THAN THE
SAME-OL'-SAME-OL' WHEN-
EVER OUR FAMILIES GET
TOGETHER--

--THAT IS,
A CHANCE FOR
JULIE-SU, SALLY,
AND THE KIDS TO
SPEND A FEW
DAYS RELAXING
AND HAVING
FUN--

--WHILE
WE JUST
BARELY
TOLERATE
EACH
OTHER!

I THOUGHT
HE SUMMED
IT ALL UP
RIGHT ON
THE MARK!

IT'S OKAY,
JULIE-SU!

SO LET'S
GET TO THE
**PUNCH-
LINE--**

IN A
MINUTE!

**KNUCKLES!
HOW RUDE!**

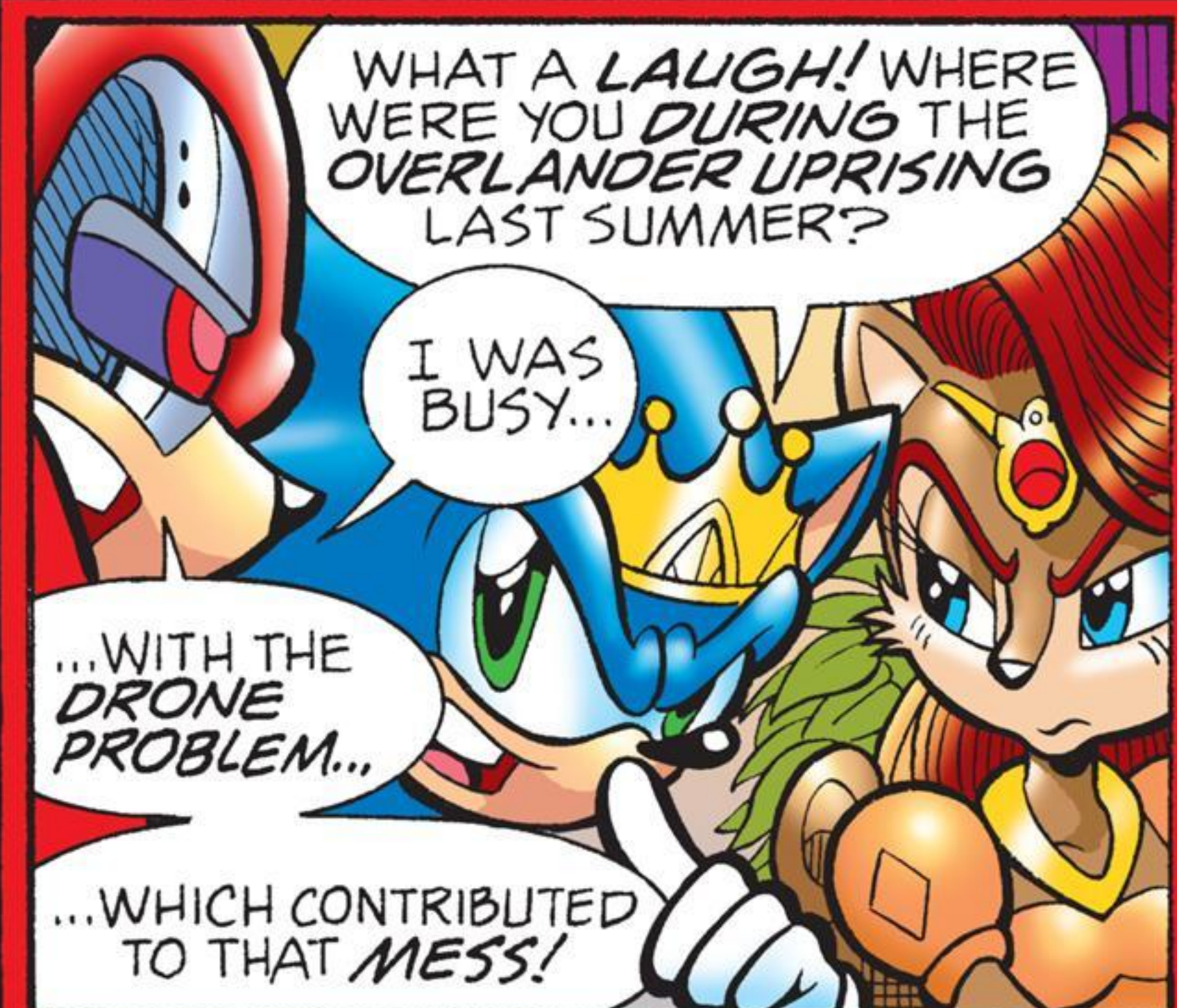
YES,
ABBY?

BEGGING
YOUR PARDON,
SIR, BUT WILL
EVERYONE BE
HAVING **CHONO**
WITH THEIR
DESSERT?

JULIE-SU
AND I WILL HAVE
OUR **USUAL**, THE
QUEEN TAKES
HERS WITH A
MINT TWIST...

SINCE WHEN DID
YOU BECOME A
GOURMAND?

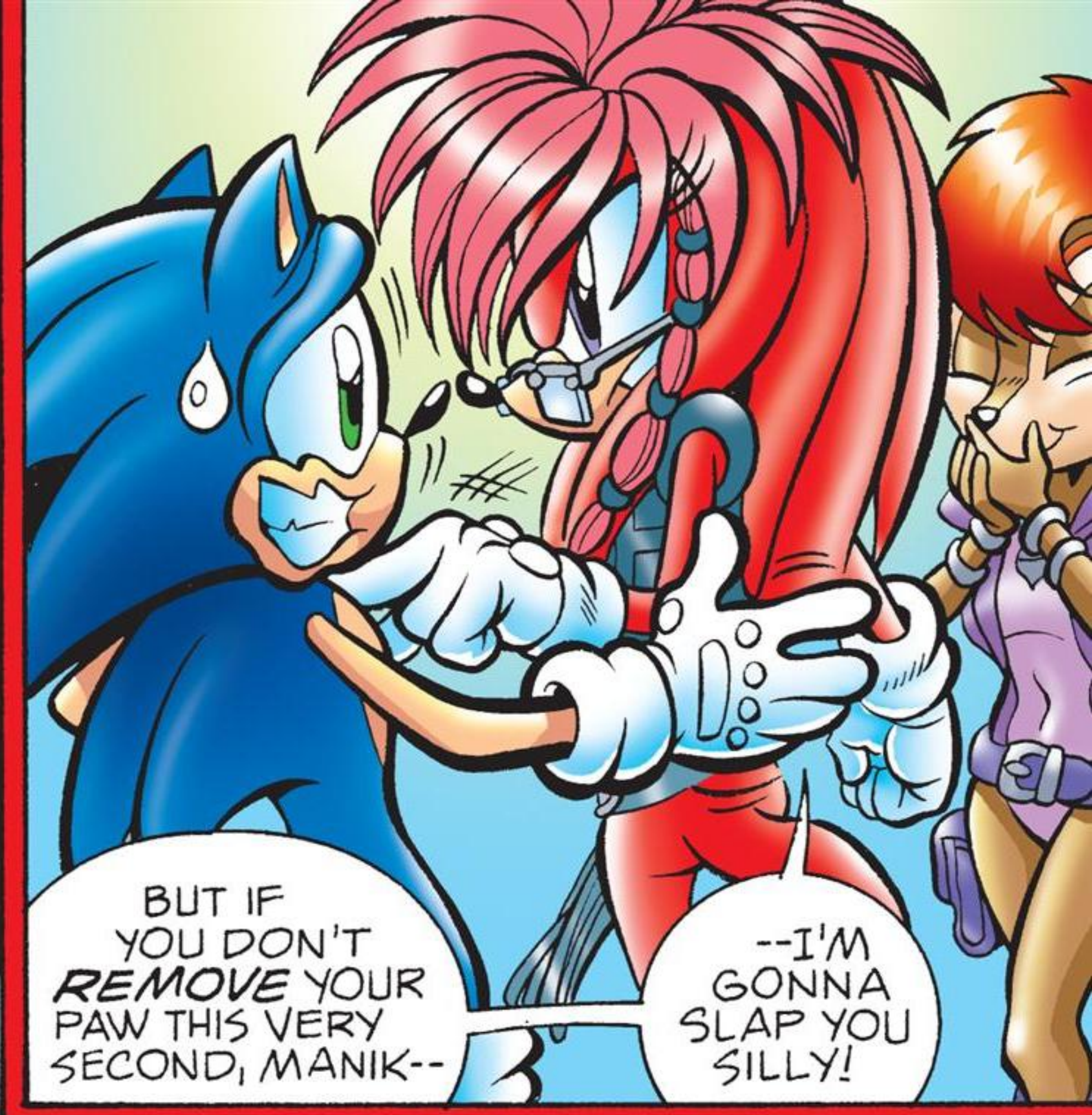
...WHILE
THE **KING**
PREFERS HIS
STRAIGHT!





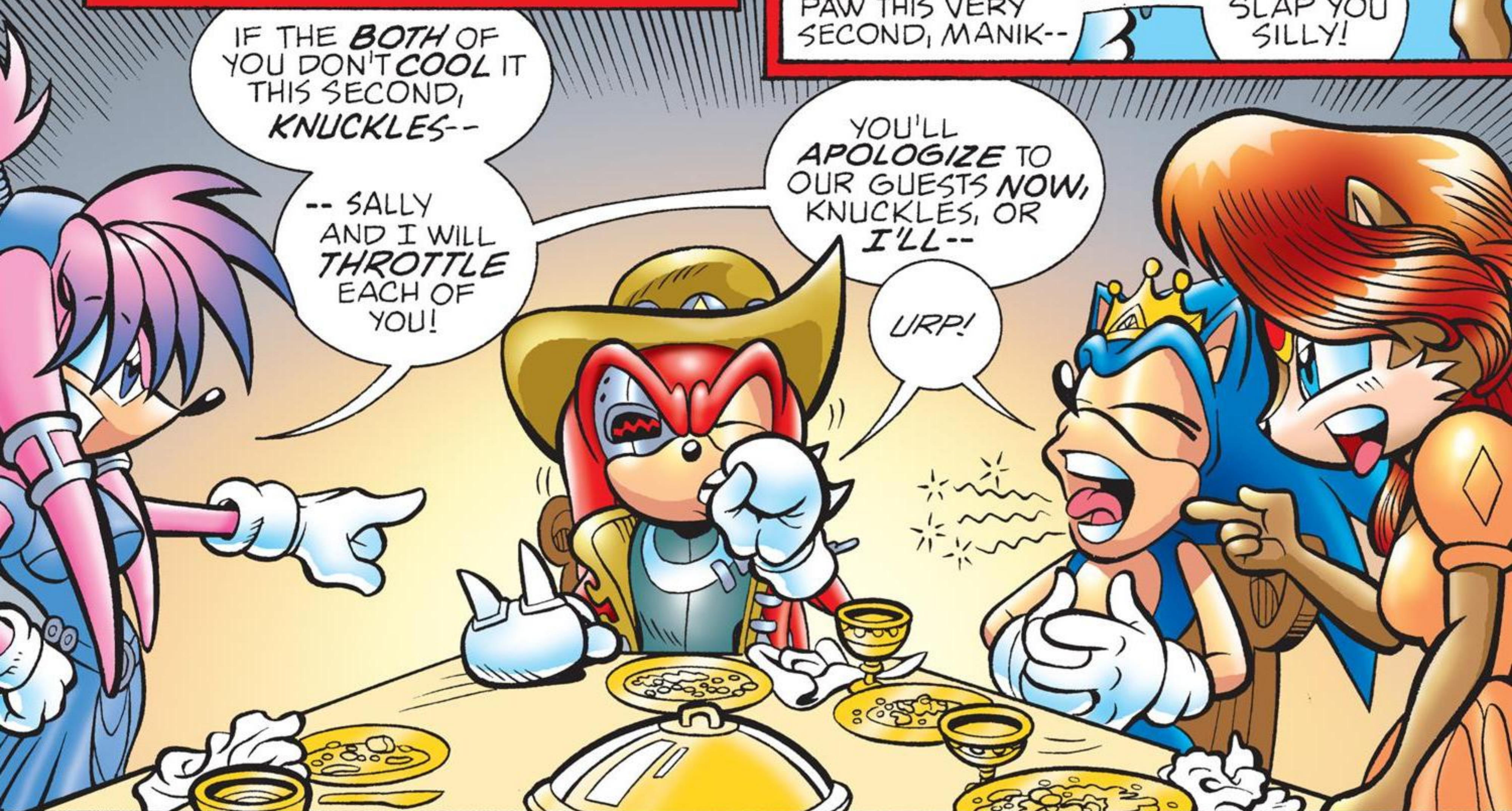
JUST BECAUSE OUR **DADS** CAN BE SUCH **DORKS** AT TIMES DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO BE THE **SAME**!

YE-AH, BABY!



BUT IF YOU DON'T **REMOVE** YOUR PAW THIS VERY SECOND, MANIK--

--I'M GONNA SLAP YOU SILLY!



IF THE **BOTH** OF YOU DON'T **COOL** IT THIS SECOND, **KNUCKLES**--

-- SALLY AND I WILL **THROTTLE** EACH OF YOU!

YOU'LL **APOLOGIZE** TO OUR GUESTS **NOW**, KNUCKLES, OR **I'LL**--

URP!



UHH, YEAH...

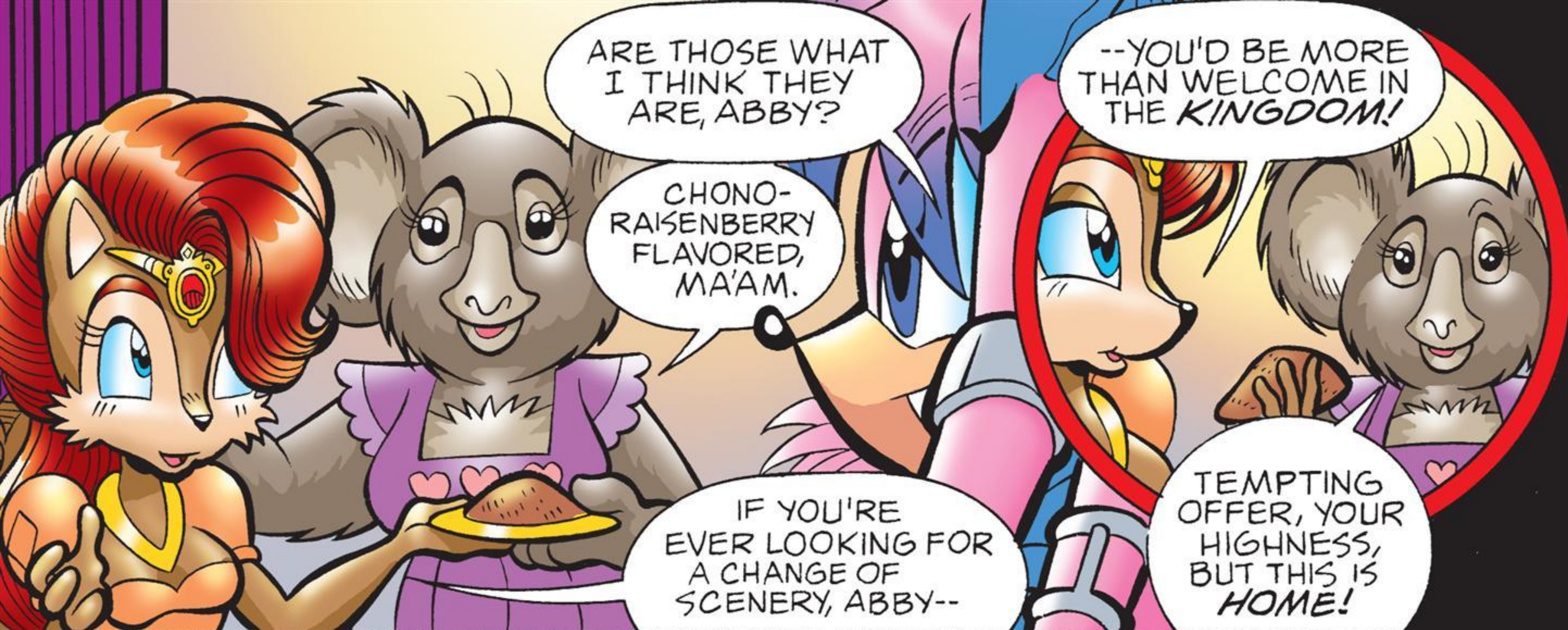
I MEAN-- **SORRY!**

LIKEWISE!



HERE YOU GO, SIR!

YOU **DID** SAY THE **QUEEN** TAKES HERS WITH A **MINT TWIST**?



YOU WON'T THINK SO AFTER I TELL YOU IT WAS **ROTOR** AND **COBAR** WHO DISCOVERED THE **PROBLEM!**

THEY DIDN'T FEEL YOU WOULD **LISTEN** TO WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY, SO THEY CAME TO **ME!**

WELL, **ROTOR** DID!

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, THERE ARE FORCES AT WORK **TEARING APART** THE PLANET.

AS YET, NO ONE UNDERSTANDS THE **CAUSE** OR **EXACT NATURE** OF THESE FORCES, BUT **COBAR** HAS BEEN ABLE TO DETECT PRESSURE BUILDING AT THE **CORE** OF **MOBIUS!**

TO DATE, I'VE HAD A NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE MATTER AND IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO THIS--

--IF WE CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEM, NO HARM, NO FOUL!

BUT IF WE **CAN'T**, THAT'LL BE ALL SHE WROTE!

THAT'S IT?!!

IT'S EITHER ONE FROM COLUMN A OR TWO FROM COLUMN B?!!

WHAT ABOUT A **THIRD** OPTION?

ONLY THE **COMBINED** EFFORTS OF BOTH THE **KINGDOM** AND THE **ECHIDNAS**

--CAN MAKE THAT **LIKELY.**

IN CASE WE CAN'T PREVENT THE **PLANET** ITSELF FROM **BLOWING UP--**

--WE NEED A **PLAN** TO GET **EVERYONE** OFF!

TO BE
CONTINUED